

MARVEL
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ATLANTIS ATTACKS

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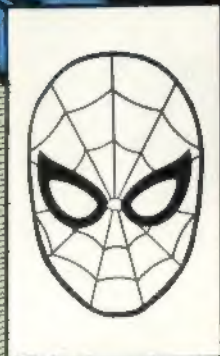
APPROVED
BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

GUEST-STARRING

CLOAK
AND
DAGGER

PLUS SOLO
TALES
STARRING
THE PROWLER
AND
MARY JANE!

the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™



ATLANTIS ATTACKS

chapter six

the SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN

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The Story so far... As the attack by the Atlanteans and rebel Lemurians against the surface world continues, the Deviant High Priest, *Ghaur*, and Lemurian rebel leader, *Ulyra*, have freed *Tyrannus* to begin the next step in their scheme. As Dr. Tyrone, Tyrannus rescues the fanatical terrorist *Viper* from imprisonment in order to continue the plan to turn all of New York's drug addicts into Serpent-people...

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN™ ANNUAL Vol. 1, No. 9, 1989. Published by MARVEL COMICS, James E. Gallon, President, Stan Lee, Publisher, Michael Hobson, Group Vice President, Publishing. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 387 PARK AVENUE SOUTH, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10016. Published annually. Copyright © 1989 by Marvel Entertainment Group, Inc. All rights reserved. Price \$2.00 per copy in the U.S. and \$2.75 in Canada. Printed in the U.S.A. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. This periodical may not be sold except by authorized dealers and is sold subject to the conditions that it shall not be sold or distributed with any part of its cover or markings removed, nor in a mutilated condition. THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN (including all prominent characters featured in the issue and the distinctive likenesses thereof), are trademarks of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. Thwipperscan

Stan Lee
PRESENTS:

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN!

THE SERPENT IN THE SHADOW

THE WEST SIDE ARMORY,
ON 88TH STREET IN
MANHATTAN...

LOOKS LIKE EVERYTHING
I HEARD ON TV ABOUT THIS
"SAVE OUR SOCIETY"
ORGANIZATION IS TRUE!

DRUG ADDICTS AND
ALCOHOLICS FROM ALL
OVER ARE FLOCKING
HERE FOR THIS GUY
DR. TYRONE'S
"MIRACLE CURE."

I HOPE FOR THEIR SAKE
TYRONE ISN'T A FRAUD--

-- BUT FRAUD
OR NOT, HE'S
NEWS--

-- AND FOR A PART-TIME
PHOTOGRAPHER LIKE YOUR
FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD
SPIDER-MAN, ANY NEWS
IS GOOD NEWS.

GERRY CONWAY.....SCRIPT
DAVE ROSS.....PENCILER
ANDY AUBREYNSKY.....INKER PGS. 2-16
MIKE GUSTOVICH.....INKER PGS. 17-30
RICK PARKER.....LETTERS
STEVE E. CO.....COLOR
JIM SALICRUP.....EDITOR
TOM DEFALCO.....ED. IN CHARGE





WOW! TYRONE IS JUST AS CHARISMATIC AS I'D HEARD!

I WONDER WHAT'S IN THAT SERUM--HUH?



WELL, WELL, WELL.



HI, CLOAK! LONG TIME NO SEE!

GUESS I'M NOT THE ONLY GUY INTERESTED IN MIRACLES.

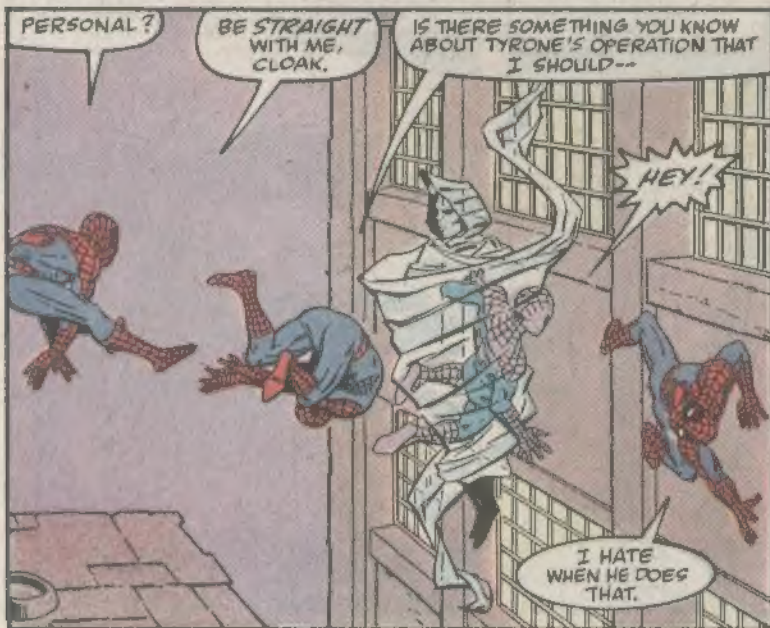
SPIDER-MAN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

NO FAIR, THAT'S MY QUESTION.



I--

IT'S PERSONAL.



PERSONAL?

BE STRAIGHT WITH ME, CLOAK.

IS THERE SOMETHING YOU KNOW ABOUT TYRONE'S OPERATION THAT I SHOULD--

HEY!

I HATE WHEN HE DOES THAT.



CLOAK CAN FOLD HIMSELF INTO THAT CAPE HE WEARS AND TELEPORT ALMOST ANYWHERE.

BUT IF HE'S INTERESTED IN TYRONE, HE PROBABLY DIDN'T GO FAR.

UH-HUH, I THOUGHT SO--

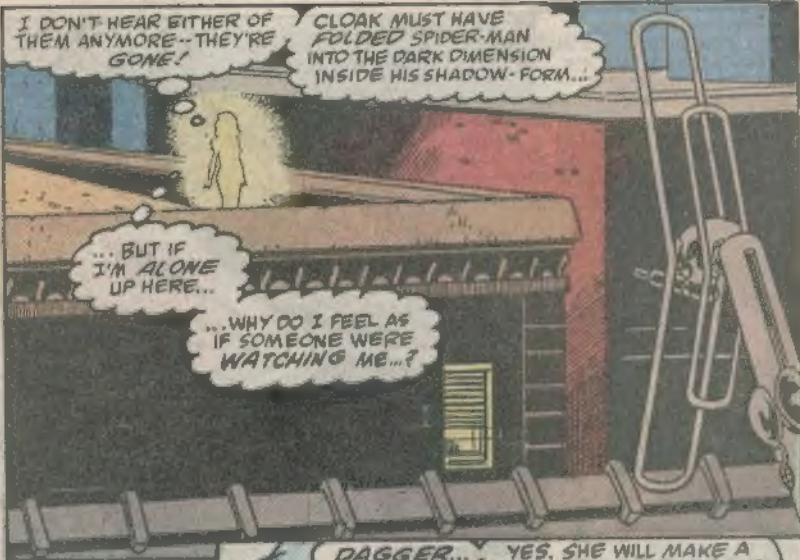




CLOAK?

SPIDER-MAN?

WHERE ARE YOU?



I DON'T HEAR EITHER OF THEM ANYMORE--THEY'RE GONE!

CLOAK MUST HAVE FOLDED SPIDER-MAN INTO THE DARK DIMENSION INSIDE HIS SHADOW-FORM...

...BUT IF I'M ALONE UP HERE...

...WHY DO I FEEL AS IF SOMEONE WERE WATCHING ME...?



IT'S MOMENTS LIKE THIS I REALLY HATE BEING BLIND.

THAT ONE.



THAT FEMALE.

WHAT NAME DID THE SPIDER-CREATURE CALL HER?

DAGGER, MY LORD SHAUR.



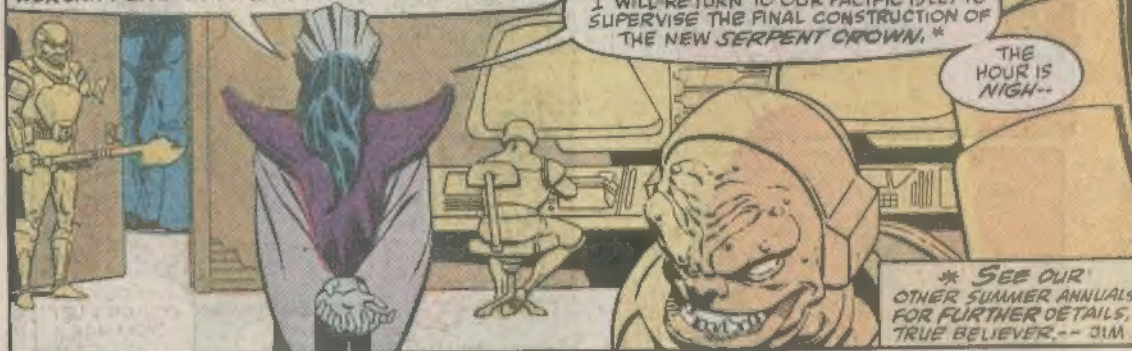
DAGGER...

YES. SHE WILL MAKE A FINE BRIDE FOR THE GOD SET, WHEN HE RETURNS.

TELL TYRANNUS TO PUT THE MARK UPON HER.

I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS HUMAN CITY.

LET TYRANNUS CONTINUE TO GATHER THE SERPENT-WORSHIPPERS WE REQUIRE FOR SET'S RESURRECTION.



I WILL RETURN TO OUR PACIFIC ISLE, TO SUPERVISE THE FINAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW SERPENT CROWN.*

THE HOUR IS NIGH--

* SEE OUR OTHER SUMMER ANNUALS FOR FURTHER DETAILS. TRUE BELIEVER--JIM

"...WHEN MY DREAM
WILL REACH FRUITION AND
BECOME HUMANITY'S
NIGHTMARE."

AND,
SPEAKING OF
NIGHTMARES...

Y
A
A
A



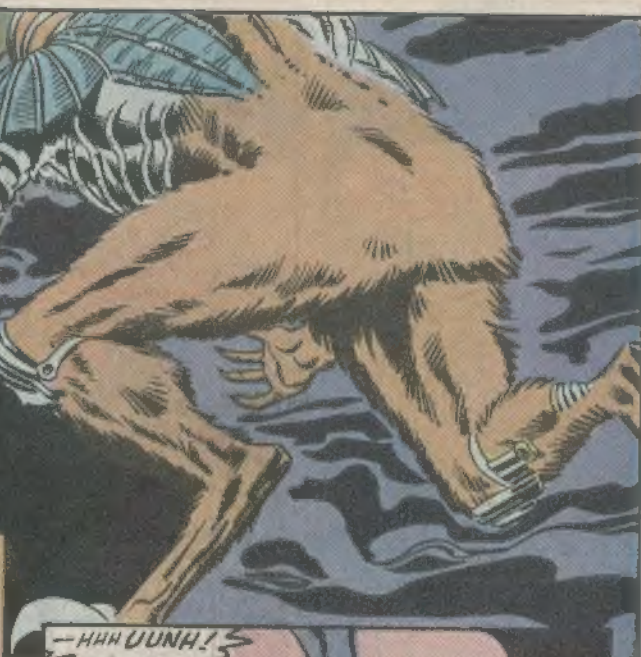
A
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—HHH UUNH!



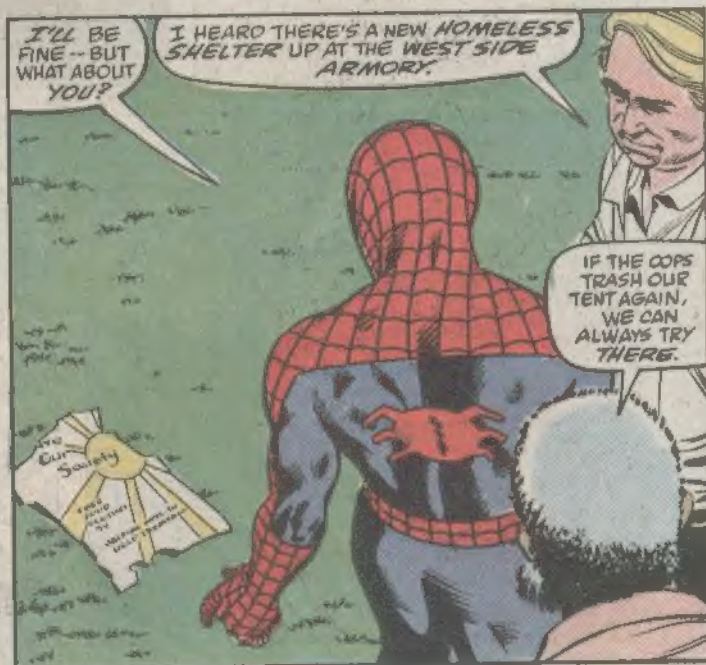
I'M
SORRY,
SPIDER-
MAN.

I MADE YOUR PASSAGE THROUGH THE
DARK DIMENSION AS BRIEF AS POSSIBLE..



SO COLD..
SO COLD..

— BUT I
COULDN'T LET
YOU HARM
DAGGER.





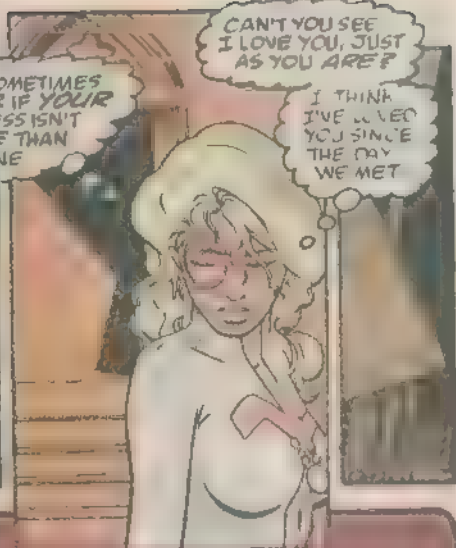
DEAR TY, WHY DO YOU TORTURE YOURSELF WITH SO MUCH REMORSE AND REGRET? I MAY BE PHYSICALLY BLIND...



BUT SOMETIMES I WONDER IF YOUR BLINDNESS ISN'T WORSE THAN MINE

CAN'T YOU SEE I LOVE YOU, JUST AS YOU ARE?

I THINK I'VE LOVED YOU SINCE THE DAY WE MET

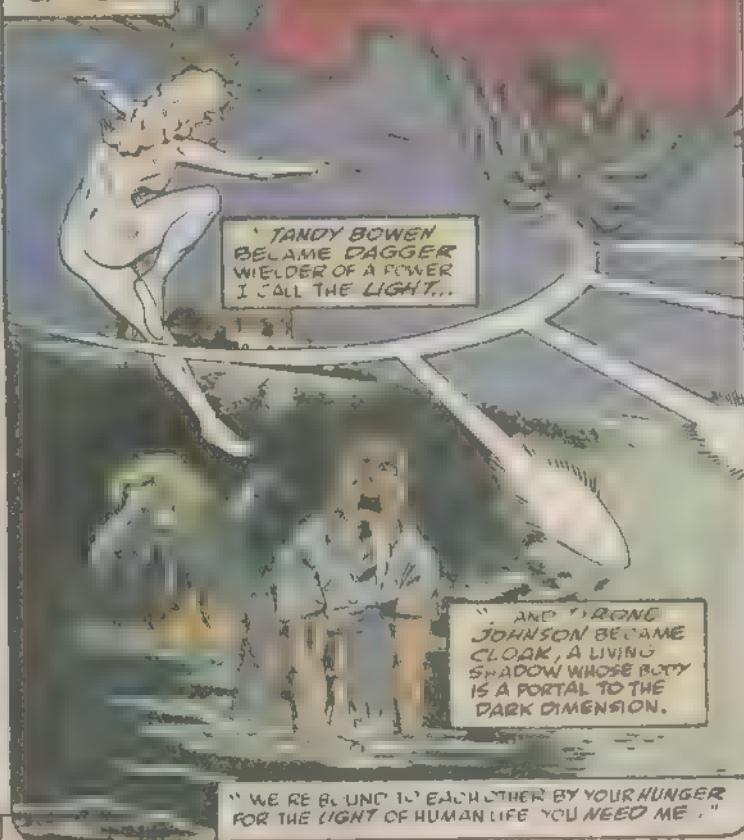


"TWO OF THE RUNAWAY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS I MET WAS CHEMIST NAMED JOHN MARSHALL, WHO INJECTED US WITH AN EXPERIMENTAL DRUG.

"MARSHALL'S DRUG INTERACTED WITH OUR EXISTING MEDICATIONS



"AND WE CHANGED



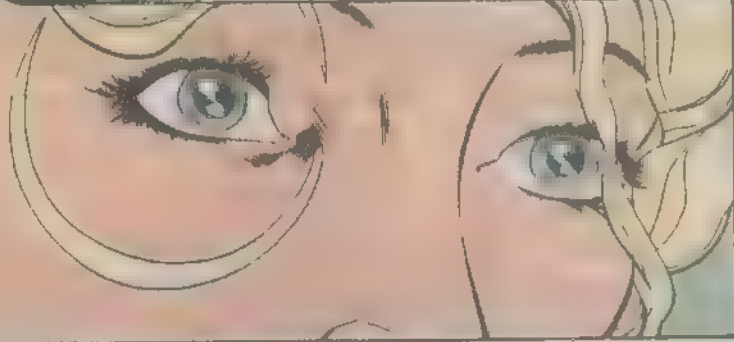
TANDY BOWEN BECAME DAGGER WIELDER OF A POWER I CALL THE LIGHT...

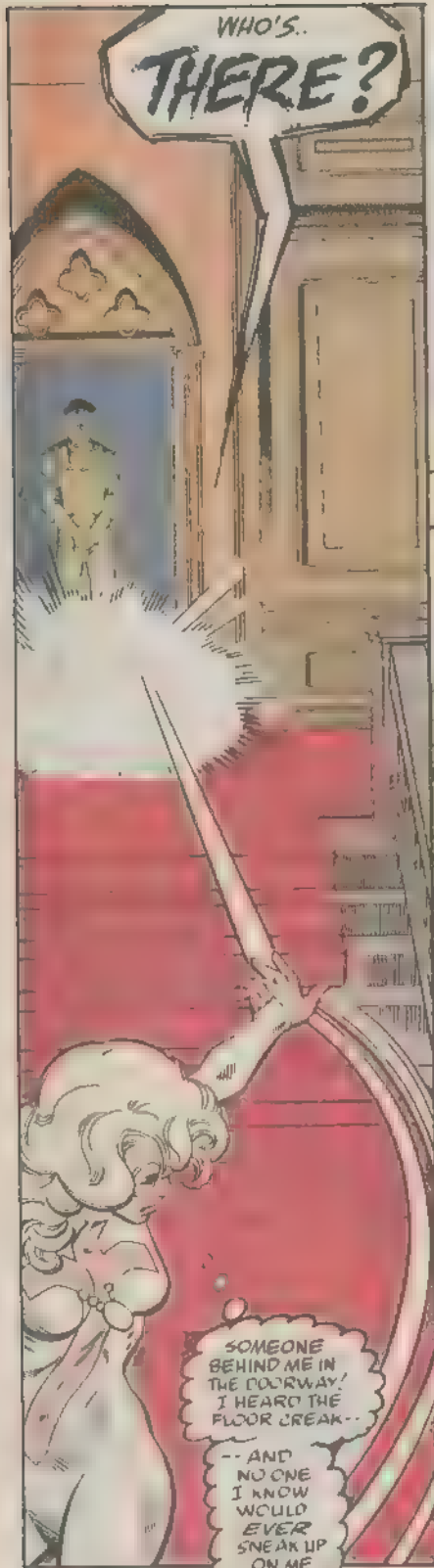
"AND VIRGINIA JOHNSON BECAME CLOAK, A LIVING SHADOW WHOSE BODY IS A PORTAL TO THE DARK DIMENSION.

"WE'RE BOUND TO EACH OTHER BY YOUR HUNGER FOR THE LIGHT OF HUMAN LIFE YOU NEED ME."

BUT IT WAS ONLY WHEN I LOST MY SIGHT THAT I FINALLY UNDERSTOOD HOW MUCH I NEED YOU

I WISH YOU COULD... eh?

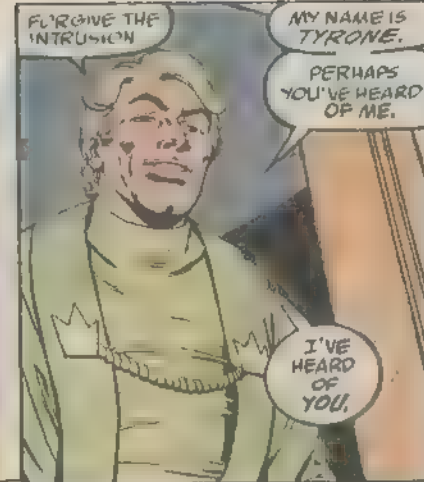




WHO'S...
THERE?

SOMEONE
BEHIND ME IN
THE DOORWAY!
I HEARD THE
FLOOR CREAK...

-- AND
NO ONE
I KNOW
WOULD
EVER
SNEAK UP
ON ME
LIKE
THAT!



FORGIVE THE
INTRUSION

MY NAME IS
TYRONE.

PERHAPS
YOU'VE HEARD
OF ME.

I'VE
HEARD
OF
YOU.



D-DOCTOR TYRONE?
OHMIGOSH, I'M SORRY!

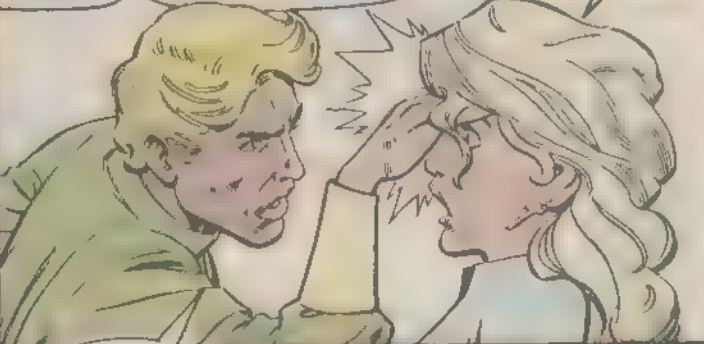
MY LIGHT-KNIFE MUST
HAVE DAZZLED
YOU--

BUT-- WAIT
A MINUTE--

-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING
HERE? HOW DID YOU--

-- YOU --

-- YOU --



LEMURIAN
TECHNOLOGY
GUIDED ME TO
YOU, CHILD.

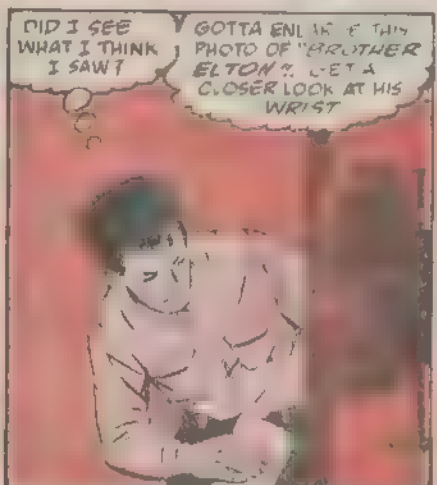
AND THE FLAME OF
LIFE GIVES ME THE
POWER TO SAP YOUR
WILL AND STEAL YOUR
SOUL.

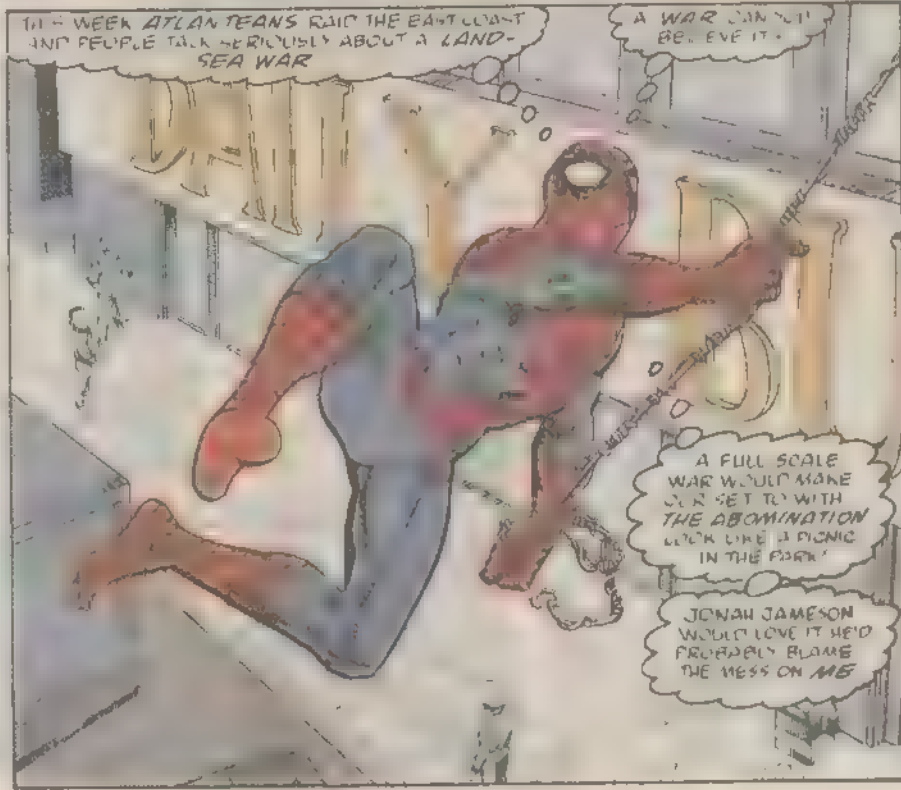
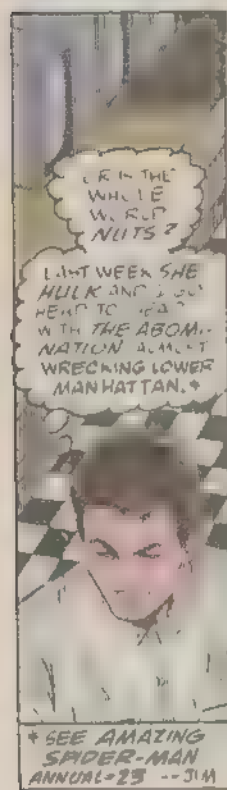
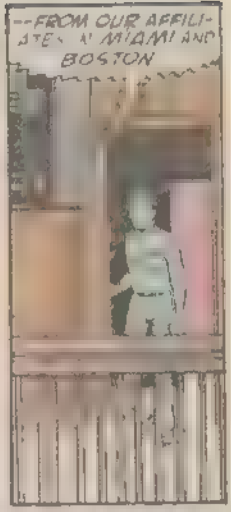
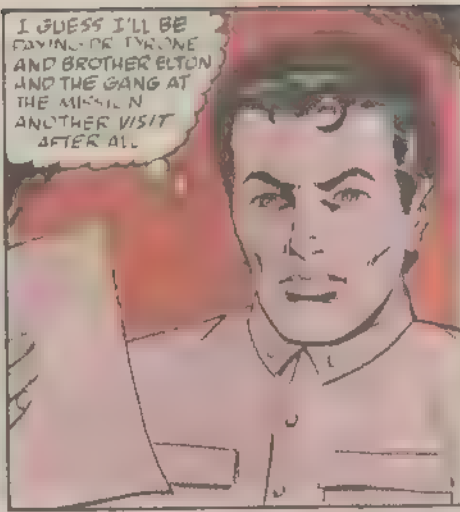
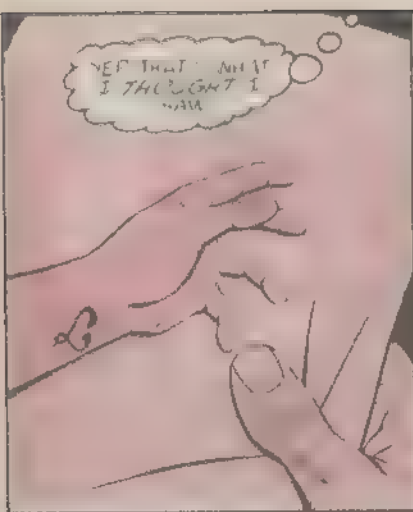
I HAVE
ANOTHER
NAME, YOU
SEE.

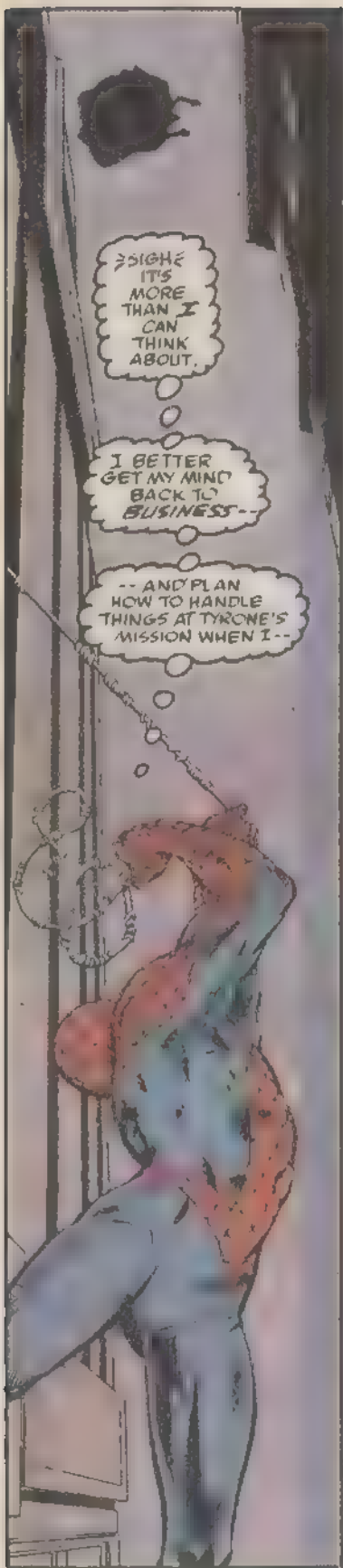
TO THE WORLD I
AM **DR. TYRONE**
HEALER OF THE
ADDICTED.



... BUT HISTORY
KNOWS ME AS
TYRANNUS,
IMMORTAL MASTER
OF ANCIENT ROME!







SIGH
IT'S
MORE
THAN I
CAN
THINK
ABOUT.

I BETTER
GET MY MIND
BACK TO
BUSINESS--

-- AND PLAN
HOW TO HANDLE
THINGS AT TYRONE'S
MISSION WHEN I--

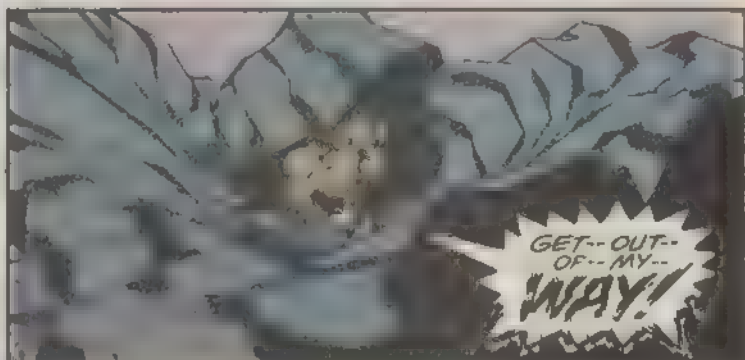


HEY!

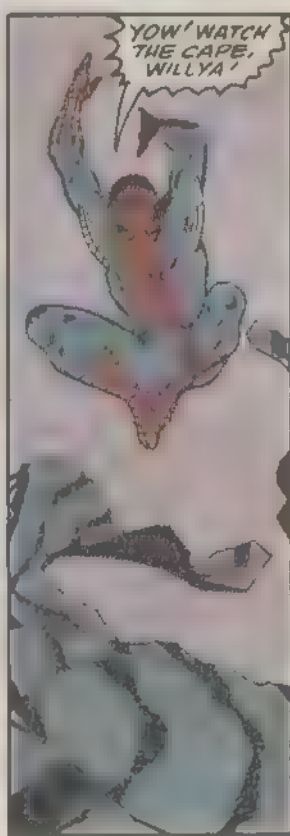
EXCUSE
ME

CORRECT
ME IF I'M
WRONG--

-- BUT DON'T
I OWE YOU
A BOF IN
THE NOSE?



GET-- OUT--
OF-- MY--
WAY!



YOW! WATCH
THE CAPE,
WILLYA!



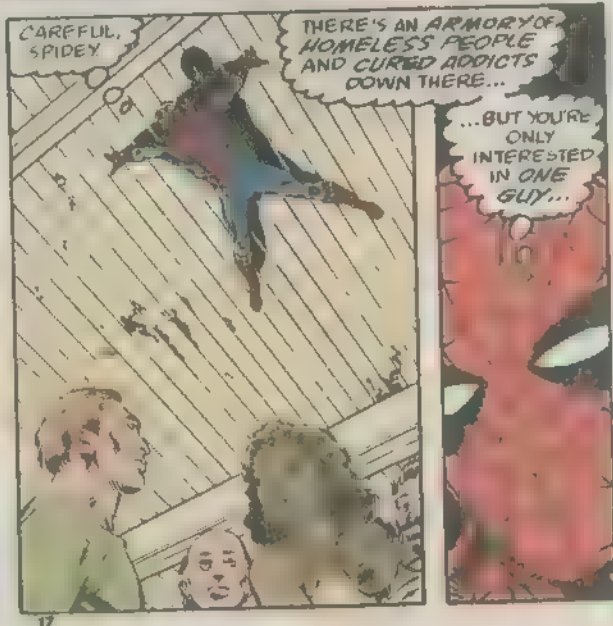
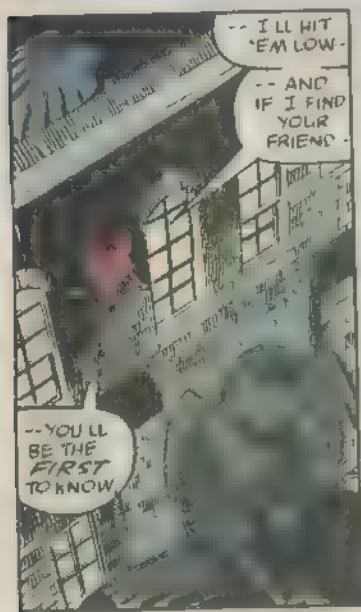
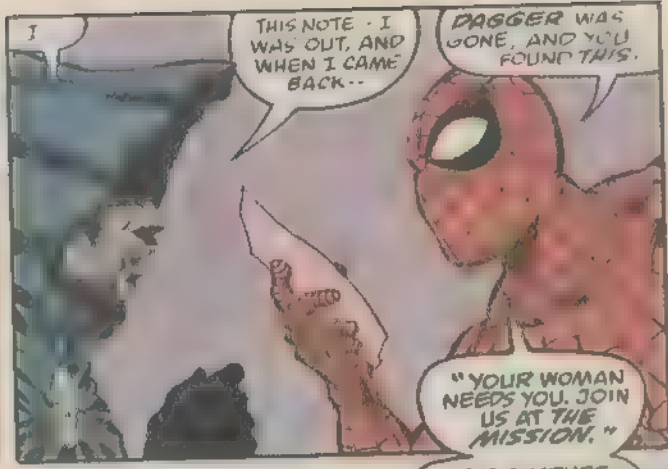
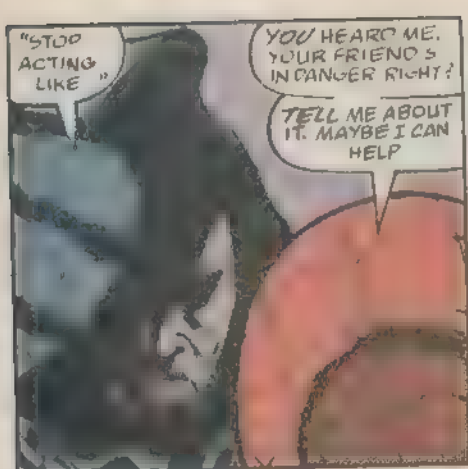
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR
THIS, WEB-SLINGER!

SHE'S IN
DANGER!

WHO'S IN
DANGER?
DAGGER?

YES! I'M
[redacted]
YOU.

OH, STOP
ACTING
LIKE A
JERK.



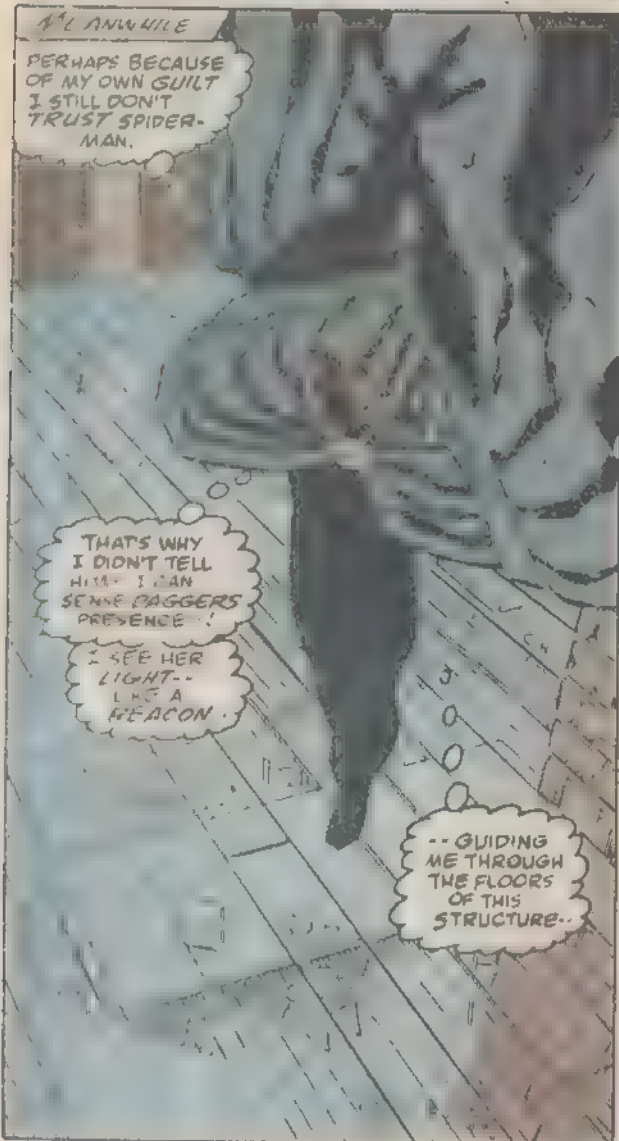


BROTHER
ELTON

WHERE'D
YOU GET YOUR
TATTOO,
BROTHER E?



WHY DON'T I
JUST FOLLOW
YOU A WHILE
AND FIND OUT?



A WHILE

PERHAPS BECAUSE
OF MY OWN GUILT
I STILL DON'T
TRUST SPIDER-
MAN.

THAT'S WHY
I DIDN'T TELL
HIM I CAN
SENSE DAGGERS
PRESENCE

I SEE HER
LIGHT--
LIKE A
BEACON

-- GUIDING
ME THROUGH
THE FLOORS
OF THIS
STRUCTURE--



-- AS IF THEY OR
I WERE NO
MORE THAN
SHADOW

DAGGER!

AH
CLOAK-

WELCOME!

OBTAINING
I'VE BEEN
EXPECTING
YOU

GIVE ME ONE REASON I WON'T DESTROY
YOU RIGHT NOW, TYRONE

I'LL GIVE
YOU TWO

FIRST
DESTROY ME AND
YOUR WOMAN
WILL REMAIN
COMATOSE
FOREVER

SECOND, YOU
REALLY DON'T WANT
TO DESTROY ME--

DO
YOU?

NO I DIDN'T
THINK SO

YEARS AGO I BURNED
IN THE FLAME OF LIFE
MY FRIEND

-- AND SINCE THAT DAY, I AM
BOTH IMMORTAL, AND I HAVE
CHARISMATIC POWER
OVER ALL WHO APPROACH
ME

YOU'LL DO
WHAT I WANT
NOW, WON'T
YOU?

YES

EXCELLENT

THESE PHOTOS
SHOW A MUSEUM
IN PARIS--

--AND A BOOK IN
THAT MUSEUM.

I KNOW
YOUR
POWER
IS GREAT

ELSEWHERE IN
THE CONVERTED
ARMORY...

THIS MUST BE
THE MAIN DRUG
TREATMENT
CLINIC--

-- BUT WHY ARE
THESE JUNKIES ALL
STRAPPED DOWN?

TELLING ME THAT
BOOK NOW,



AND WHY DOES THEIR SKIN LOOK SO STRANGE?

OH HAVE I GOT QUESTIONS FOR YOU, ELTON-FAB!



YOU AND ME ELTON-

-- WE'RE GONNA HAVE A REAL NICE TALK



AT THAT MOMENT-

YOU'RE BACK!

BUT I TOLD YOU TO BRING ME-



- THE BOOK!

THE SACRED BOOK OF KELL--

-- AN ANCIENT TEXT OF THE SONS OF THE SERPENT CULT!

MY FOLLOWER ELTON TOLD ME OF THIS BOOK AND TOLD ME WHAT IT CONTAINED: SECRETS!

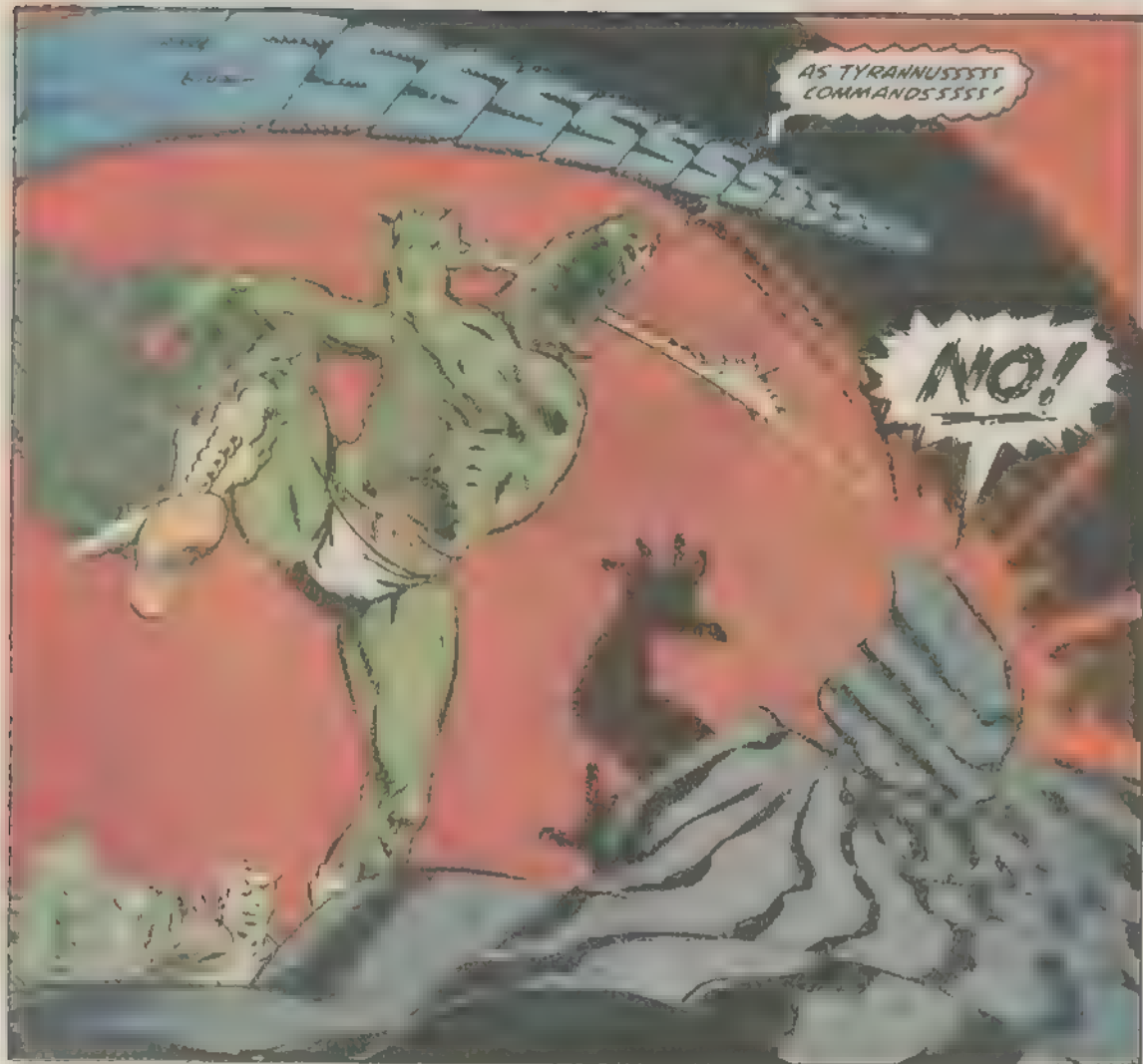
SECRETS THAT WILL MAKE ME A POWER IN MY OWN RIGHT--

-- A POWER GREATER THAN THAT FOOL LORD GHOUR!

I OWE YOU A GREAT DEAL MY FRIEND AND TYRANNUS ALWAYS PAYS HIS DEBTS IN FULL.

KILL HIM-- QUICKLY!



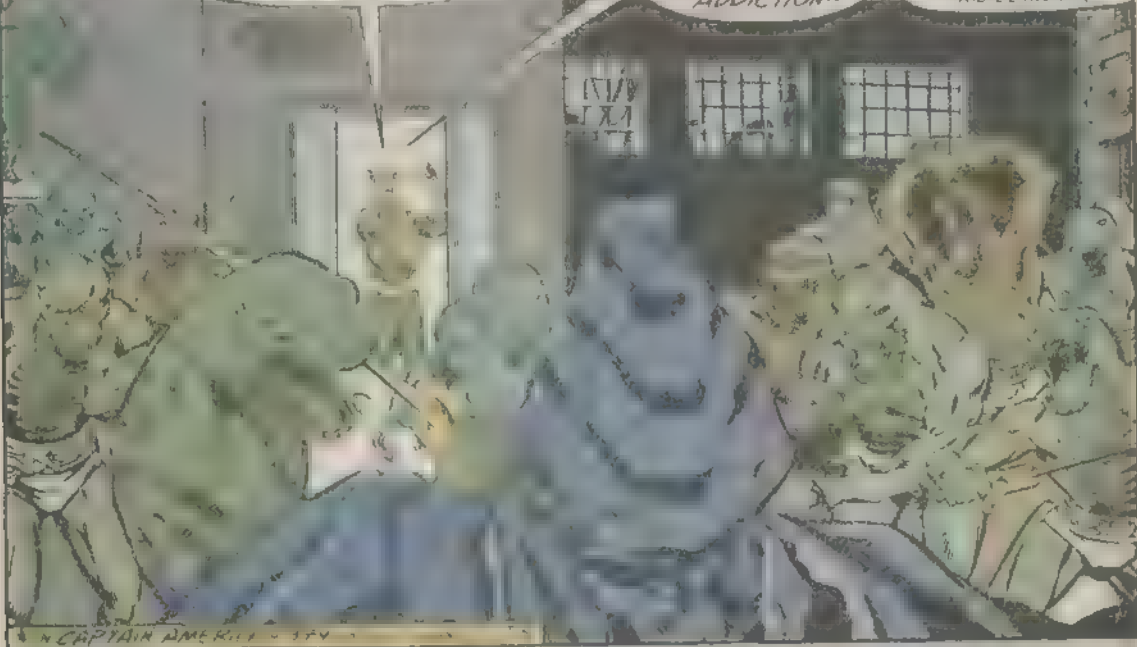


YOU CAN'T
WIN, CLOAK!

THESE ARE IT, RE... THE PRODUCT
OF A SERPENT SERUM DEVELOPED BY
THE WOMAN NAME Viper WHICH
SHE RECENTLY FIELD TESTED IN
WASHINGTON, D.C.!

IN THE EARLY STAGES
THE TRANSFORMATION
PRODUCED BY VIPER'S
SERUM CURES EVERY
KIND OF CHEMICAL
ADDICTION--

-THUS THE SUCCESS
OF THIS CLINIC AND
OF THE TWO HUNDRED
OTHER CLINICS I'VE
ESTABLISHED AROUND
THE COUNTRY.



"ONLY IN ITS FINAL
STAGES ARE THE
TRUE EFFECTS
OF THE SERUM
FELT--

"--WHEN IT TRANSFORMS ITS VICTIMS INTO THE
SERPENTINE MONSTERS THAT NOW
ATTACK YOU.



"FAREWELL, CLOAK BEHOLD
OF THE DEBT I OWE YOU MAN
YOUR DEMISE IS AT HAND

ARRGGH!



EL SEWHERE AND MEAN-
WHILE AND AT THAT HE WENT

THEY CALLED THEMSELVES
THE SONS OF THE SERPENT.

MAYBE YOU
KNOW
THEM, ELTON.

WITH MARVEL
TEAM-UP
#111 -- JS

YEAH I WANT
TO KNOW ABOUT
THAT SERPENT
TATTOO ON
YOUR WRIST
ELTON

I ONCE
FOUGHT A
GROUP OF
LOONEYS
WHO HAD
THAT TATTOO

MAYBE YOUR BOSS, DR TYRONE
KNOWS THEM, TOO -- HMM?

HEY,
WHAT'S
WITH ALL
THE
BODIES?

EVERYTHING
ON SCHEDULE?

YUP

I HOPE SO
FOR YOUR
SAKE

DR. TYRONE WANTS
ALL PATIENTS IN FINAL
STAGE TO
BE TRANSFERRED TO
THE UPSTATE CLINIC TONIGHT.

"ALL PATIENTS IN
FINAL STAGE"?

WHAT DOES
THAT
MEAN?

I'VE GOT A REAL BAD
FEELING ABOUT THIS

THOSE ADDICTS BACK
IN THE ARMORY CLINIC--
WITH THEIR STRANGE-
LOOKING SKIN--

-- ELTON
AND HIS
SERPENT
CULT
TATTOO

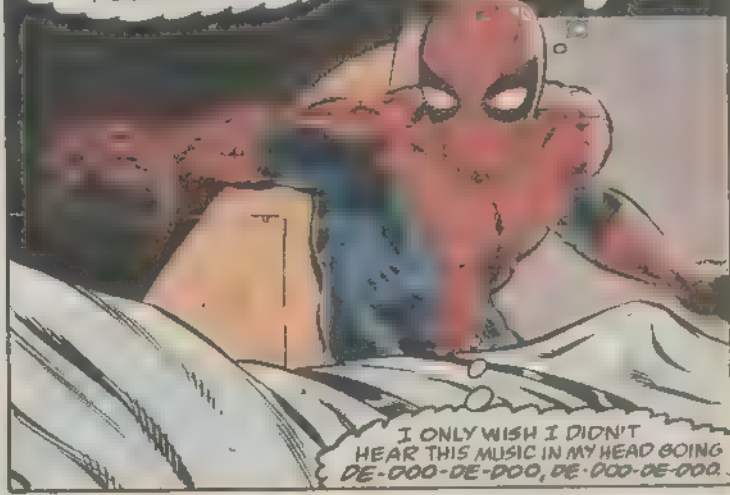
-- DAGGER'S
KIDNAPPING
AND TYRONE'S
WEIRD
CHARISM

TO AMBULANCE



PAINT MY NOSE AND CALL ME
SUSPICIOUS, BUT I THINK IT ALL
ADDS UP TO SOMETHING PRETTY
PECULIAR.

I BETTER HAVE A LOOK AT ONE
OF ELTON'S "FINAL STAGE"
PATIENTS



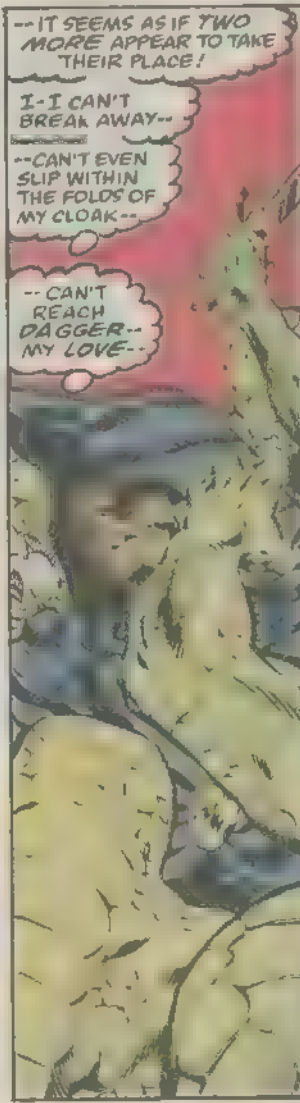
I ONLY WISH I DIDN'T
HEAR THIS MUSIC IN MY HEAD GOING
DE-DOO-DE-DOO, DE-DOO-DE-DOO.



HISSESS

HISSESS

SO MANY--
AND FOR
EVERY ONE
MY CLOAK
ABSORBS--



-- IT SEEMS AS IF TWO
MORE APPEAR TO TAKE
THEIR PLACE!

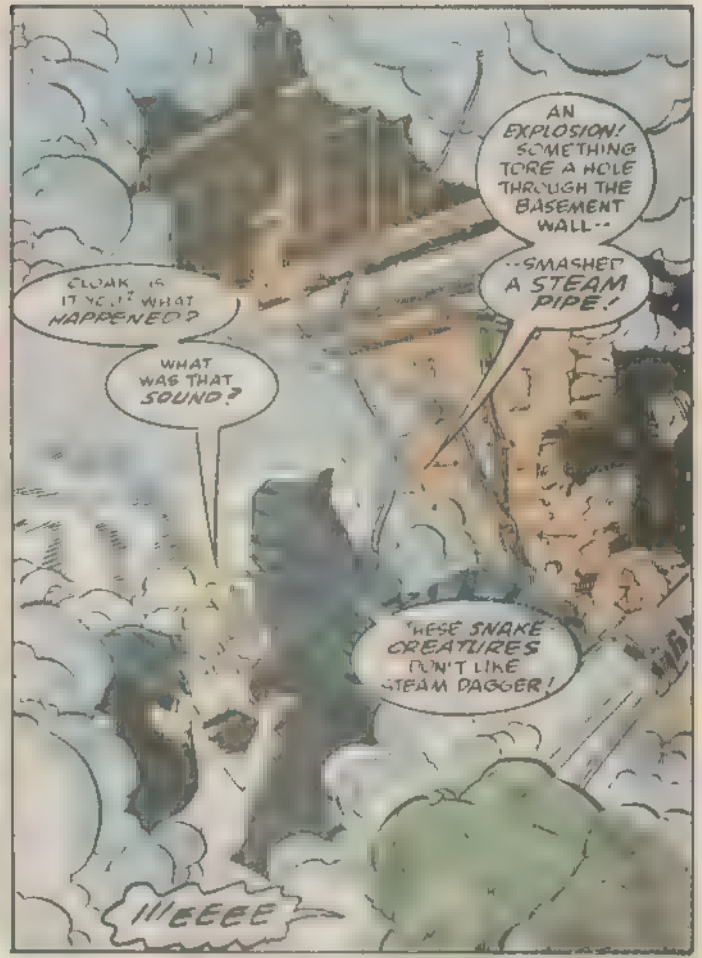
I-I CAN'T
BREAK AWAY--

-- CAN'T EVEN
SLIP WITHIN
THE FOLDS OF
MY CLOAK--

-- CAN'T
REACH
DAGGER--
MY LOVE--



WHAT--?



CLOAK IS IT YOU? WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT WAS THAT SOUND?

AN EXPLOSION! SOMETHING TORE A HOLE THROUGH THE BASEMENT WALL--

--SMASHED A STEAM PIPE!

THESE SNAKE CREATURES DON'T LIKE STEAM DAGGER!

WEEEE



CLOAK I FEEL SO STRANGE

DON'T BE AFRAID... I'M WITH YOU NOW



WHATEVER BE HE THROUGH THAT WALL I THOUGHT WE HAD THE CHANCE I NEEDED TO REACH YOU



"... AND IF I NEVER BELIEVED IN MIRACLES BEFORE..."

I'M BEGINNING TO BELIEVE IN THEM NOW.

REST HERE A
MOMENT ON THIS
ROOF

SPIDER-MAN
IS STILL INSIDE
THAT ARMORY..

- AND IF HE RUNS INTO
TYRANNUS AND HIS "NAKE
MEN HE MIGHT NEED
SOME HELP

GO AHEAD TY-
BUT PLEASE
HURRY

MY NECK
FEELS HOT-
ON FIRE.

WHYHHH

A- THE
ARMORY

OH MAN
OH MAN

THE SHIVERS,
MAN THE CHILLS
THEY'RE GONE

THE DOC-- HE'S GOT A
SSSPECIAL SSSHOT--
LIKE METHADONE, ONLY
BETTER SSSSE?

I CAN
FEEL
IT!

I'M CLEAN!

OH MY GOSH

ROOF

BURNING
FIRE
HURTS

SHE'S DELIRIOUS--
AND SO FEVERISH
I CAN SENSE HER
WARMTH FROM
HERE!

DAGGER NEEDS
A DOCTOR--

-- BUT SPIDER-MAN IS STILL
IN THE ARMORY--!

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

ARMORY

CLEAN..
I'M
CLEAN

I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT--

THIS POOR GUY
JUST TRADED HIS
DRUG ADDICTION
FOR SOMETHING
WORSE!

OF
COURSE.

TYRONE!

ADDICTION IS MORE THAN A
PHYSICAL AFFLICTION,
SPIDER-MAN.
IT CORRUPTS THE MIND AND
THE SPIRIT AS WELL AS THE
BODY.

THOSE
WHO
SEEN A
SINGLE
SOLUTION
TO A
THREE-
FOLD
ILLNESS

-- MERELY
TRADE ONE
ILLUSION--ONE
ADDICTION--FOR
ANOTHER.

YOU CREEP!
YOU'RE TURNING
THEM INTO
MONSTERS!

WELL, YES, THAT'S
ONE WAY TO LOOK
AT IT

STOP RIGHT
THERE!

HUN?

UP

LEAVE HER OR
LEAVE HIM?

....

FORGIVE ME,
SPIDER-MAN,
BUT THAT'S NO
CHOICE AT
ALL.

DOWN

THERE.

THERE

YOU
SEE
SPIDER-
MAN.

YOU'RE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE
IN THE WORLD: ADDICT AND
NON-ADDICT ALIKE.

YOU WANT EASY
ANSWERS.

YOU WANT
SIMPLE
SOLUTIONS

YOU WANT
SOMEONE
TO TELL YOU
WHAT TO DO

AND THAT
SOMEONE
MY PET.

FOR NOW AND
EVER MORE

ME.

AMBULANCE

1st FLOOR
LOWER WEST SIDE

PROM
WALK

HOLY

JOHN A
HERDLING
WRITER

SCOTT A
MCDANIEL
PENCILER

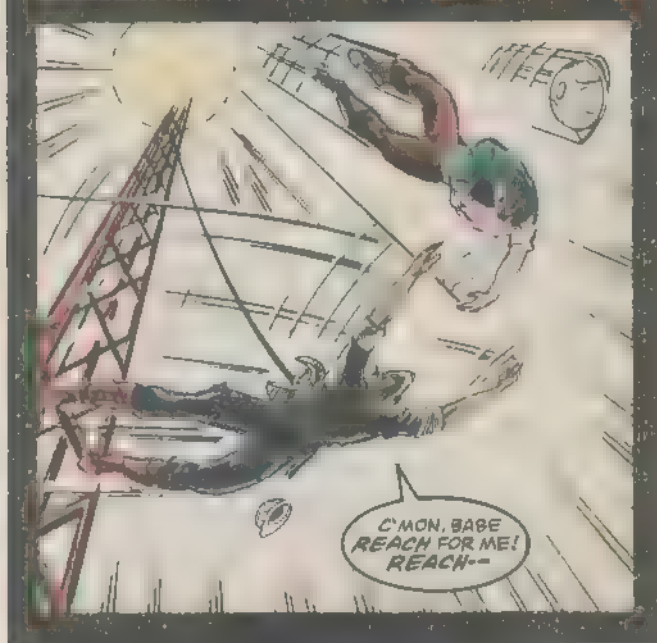
CHRIS
IVY
INKER

RICK
PARKER
LETTERER

JOHN
WILCOX
COLORIST

TIM
SALLERUP
EDITOR

DAVID
BENNETT
PUBLISHER



HEY, HOBE, FOR ALL THAT IT'S WORTH, THAT STUNT YOU PULLED UP THERE WAS DYNAMITE.

THE MAN IS DEAD, NATTIE. THAT "STUNT" WASN'T SUPPOSED TO BE A CROWD-PLEASER.

ANY IDEA WHO THE GUY WAS, MR. SAPIRSTI?

POLICE IDENTIFIED WHAT WAS LEFT OF HIM AS NEAL MULLIGAN. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND--HE WAS ONE OF OUR FINEST GIRDER WALKERS

COPS THINK HE WAS AN ILLEGAL IRISH IMMIGRANT.

NO REASON FOR A MAN TO DIE.

WHY DIDN'T HE REACH FOR ME?

HEY, GO EASY ON YOURSELF, BROWN. WE CAN'T ALL BE SUPER HEROES

WHY DON'TCHA TAKE THE REST OF THE DAY OFF. WE'RE NOT GONNA GET MUCH DONE NOW ANYWAY

THANKS BOSS I'LL NEED THE TIME TO GET MY HEAT TOGETHER. MY ASES TAKING ME TO DINNER TONIGHT. 'FRAD I WON'T BE MUCH COMPANY, THOUGH.

WIFE?

RATS!

LONG SAND CITY AN HOUR OR SO LATER

PERFECT! STOOD UP BY MY OWN WIFE-- AGAIN! AND THE FRIDGE IS HOUSING A LONELY BOX OF ARM & HAMMER. MY DAY'S COMPLETE

Hobie
Late night
attending
classes
Sorry!
xxxxx
Mindy

LOOKS LIKE IT'S GONNA BE ANOTHER DINNER CONSISTING OF "SNICKERS A LA HOBIE."

WASN'T MUCH IN THE MOOD TO GO OUT ANYWAY

NOW MORE THAN EVER I WANT TO COMPLETE THE DESIGNS FOR THESE SAFETY DEVICES I CONTRIVED WHEN I WAS A WINDOW CLEANER

I INCORPORATED MOST OF THE IDEAS INTO MY PROWLER APPAREL BUT THAT'S TOO BULKY FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK.

THE SUIT OPERATES ALMOST ENTIRELY ON THE PRINCIPLES OF PNEUMATICS AND COMPRESSED GASES SO MAYBE IF I-- YEAH! I LL

HOB E' I M HO-

OH

WAKE UP SLEEPY-HEAD. YOU'LL RUIN YOUR POSTURE THAT WAY

HM MUNDY?

SORRY I'M LATE, HON. YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO WAIT UP

PROFESSOR STAMOS HELD AN IMPROMPTU REVIEW SESSION FOR OUR UPCOMING EXAM ON--

YOL LOOK LIKE ORLD

THANKS. I FEEL WORSE

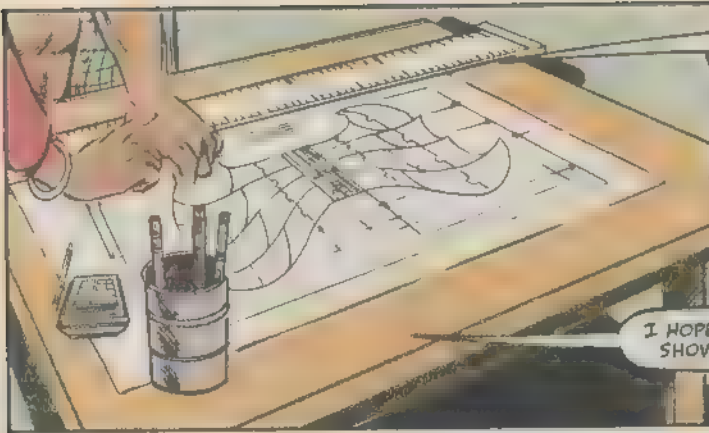
WANNA TELL ME ABOUT IT?

SOME GUY-- H HE FELL FROM THE HIGH IRONS I TRIED TO SAVE HIM. BUT- I FAILED

OH, BABY I'M SORRY

I COULDN'T SAVE THAT ONE MAN--

- BUT MAYBE I CAN PREVENT THE ACCIDENT FROM EVER HAPPENING AGAIN!



I SPENT MOST OF THE NIGHT DESIGNING THIS COMPACT GLIDER. IT FOLDS INTO A BACKPACK LIKE A PARACHUTE.

BUT, UNLIKE A PARACHUTE, IT'LL OPEN IMMEDIATELY, EVEN AT LOW ALTITUDES, AND YOU CAN MANEUVER IT IN CONFINED SPACES.

IT'S COMPOSED OF GAS-FILLED CYLINDERS WHICH, WHEN PUNCTURED, EXPAND THE WING STRUCTURE—LIKE AIR BAGS IN AUTOMOBILES.

I HOPE YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW THIS TO SOMEONE.

UH, NOT UNTIL I WORK OUT A FEW QUIRKS.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU, MR. BROWN? EVER SINCE WE FIRST MET YOU'VE GIVEN ME EXCUSE AFTER EXCUSE FOR NOT SELLING YOUR IDEAS.

WHAT YOU NEED IS A DOSE OF SELF-CONFIDENCE.

AND I KNOW JUST HOW TO GIVE IT TO--

--YOU?

POOH



ALL RIGHT, HOBIE. IF YOU WON'T FIND SOMEONE TO BUY YOUR INVENTIONS--

... I WILL!



THE NEXT DAY DURING LUNCH HOUR

HEY-HEY, SWEET-CHEEKS EVER DO THE WILD THING IN AN outhouse?

CUT IT OUT, YOU GUYS. THAT'S BROWN'S DAME.

HEY, BROWN! YOUR WIFE'S HERE!

THANKS, MR. SAPIRISTI.

BE RIGHT DOWN!

WONDER WHAT SHE'S DOIN' HERE?

"HE'S PRETTY.

YEAH. THANKS.

TELL ME WHAT COULD BE
IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO DRAG
LITTLE MS. ACCOUNTANT
AWAY FROM THE EYES OF HER
SCRUTINIZING BOSSES

YOU DID WHAT?!
MINDY, THERE'S A
MAJOR STRUCTURAL
FLAW IN THE DESIGN
HECK, IT WASN'T
EVEN PATENTED

THEY COULD ROB ME
BLIND! WHAT'S THE
NAME OF THIS
COMPANY?

H-HAMMER
INDUSTRIES

WHAT?!

YOU'LL NEVER
GUESS I TOOK
AN EXTENDED
LUNCH TO
DELIVER YOUR
PLANS TO AN
INDUSTRIAL
FIRM.

THEY'RE
INTERESTED IN
BUYING THEM!

I SHOULDN'T HAVE CUT
LOOSE ON MINDY LIKE
THAT

SHE NEVER LEARNED
THAT IT WAS JUNTIN
HAMMER WHO SET HER
UP AS A PATSY IN THE
TRANSCORP STOCK
FRAUD

AND I COULDN'T
LET HER KNOW
ABOUT MY
INVOLVEMENT.

HAMMER
USED ME--
MADE A
GOAT OUTTA
ME I CAN'T
TAKE IT LYIN'
DOWN

AND WHATEVER NOBIE
BROWN CAN'T TAKE--

--THE PROWLER CAN'T
TAKE EITHER!

I HOPED I'D NEVER
HAVE TO USE THIS GET-
UP AGAIN, BUT I WON'T
LET MINDY TAKE ON A
SCOUNDREL LIKE
HAMMER.

I CAN'T FIGHT
IT ANY LONGER.

★ SEE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
305 JIM

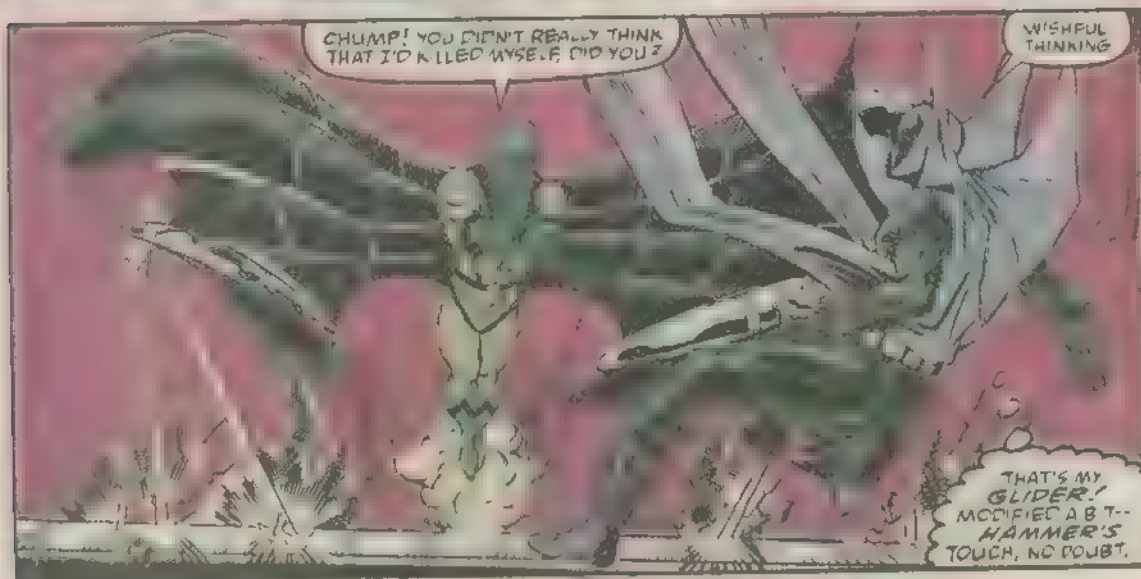
"TONIGHT THE PROWLER STALKS AGAIN!"

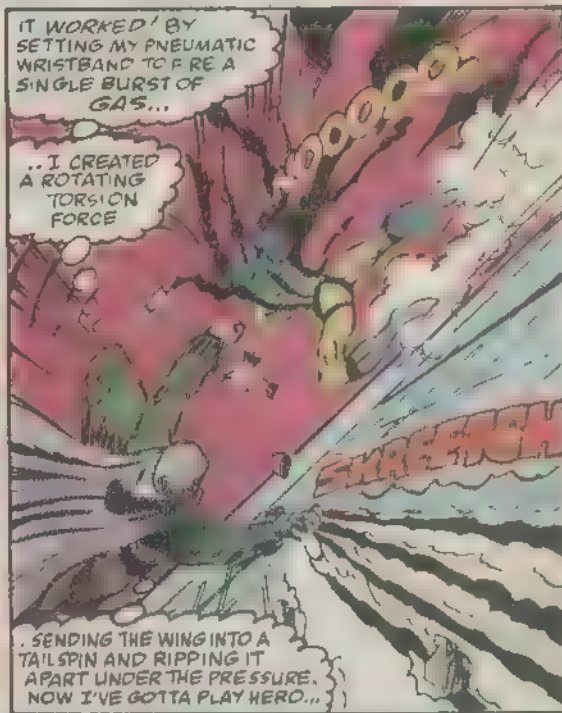
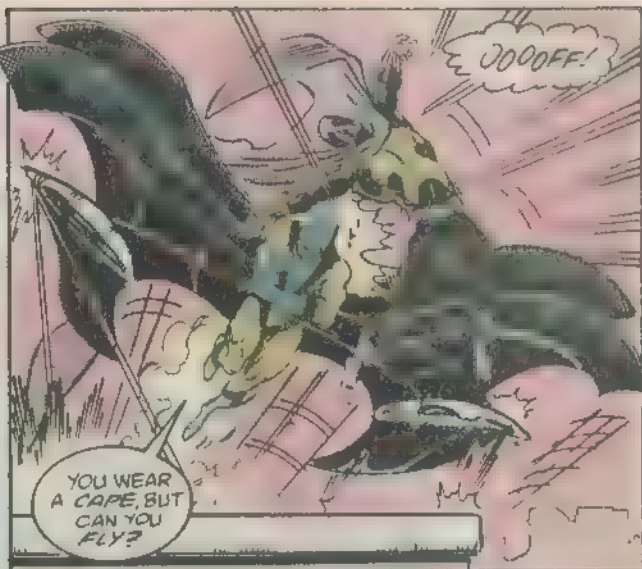
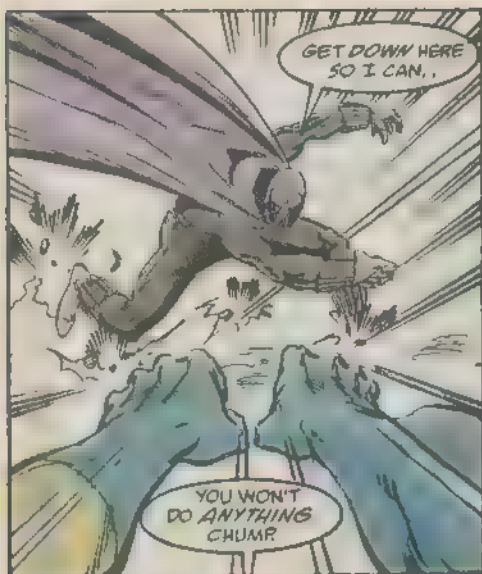
THERE'S HAMMER'S
MANUFACTURING PLANT
ALL I HAVE TO DO IS BREAK
IN AND STEAL BACK MY-

EH?

FREEZE
WINTER

OH-UP YOU
FREEZE' THIS TASER
WILL SEE TO THAT







YES!

NOW MY ADDED MOMENTUM
COUPLED WITH THE THRUST OF
HIS BOOT JETS SHOULD CARRY
US OVER TO THE FAR--

WHOULF!

OH, THANK GOD,
THANK GOD,
THANK GOD

WE'RE NOT OUT
OF THE WOODS
YET, PAL.

ONCE I DRAG YOU UP
TO THE ROOF, YOU'VE
GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING
TO DO

ANYTHING,
I'LL DO ANY-
THING! JUST
DON'T FALL!



JUNE 80

TALK.

MY NAME'S CHARLES
WEISER. MY WIFE, MARY
THREATENED TO LEAVE
ME UNLESS I WAS PRO-
MOTED TO AN EXECUTIVE
POSITION.

HAMMER PROMISED
ME A PROMOTION IF I
USED THIS PROTO WING
TO STEAL SOME PLANS
FROM ONE OF OUR
COMPETITORS.

DON'TCHA SEE?
I HAD TO DO IT!
I HAD TO PROVE
IT-- TO MY WIFE

SAD

HE'S NO
HARDENED
BADDIE
HE'S JUST
A FRIGHTENED
YUPPIE

TELL HAMMER THAT THE WING
WAS A FAILURE THEN HAND N
YOUR RESIGNATION I'LL BE
WATCHING

I'D ALSO
CONSIDER
FINDING A
GOOD DIVORCE
LAWYER





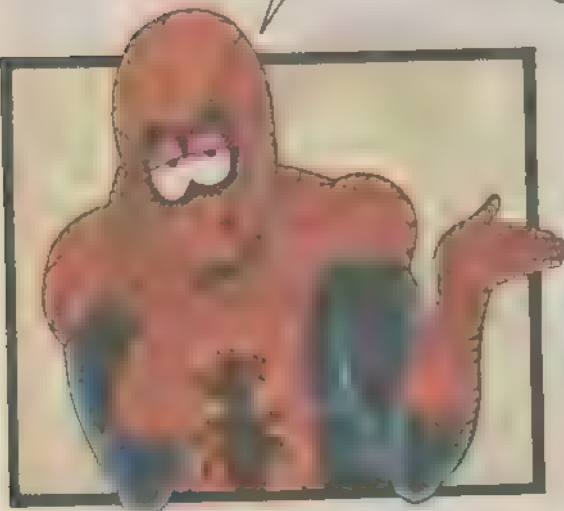
THE END ?

YOU PROBABLY THINK A GUY LIKE ME WHO RUNS AROUND IN A FUNNY COSTUME PUTTING EVIL DOERS BEHIND BARS DOESN'T HAVE TIME FOR THE FAIRER SEX. WRONGO! AS PETER PARKER, I'VE LONG HAD A DEEP RESPECT—EVEN AWE—FOR WOMEN, WHETHER THEY BE FRIENDS, LOVERS, BUSINESS ASSOCIATES, CRIMEFIGHTING ALLIES, OR CLOSE RELATIVES. I'VE HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE OF FRATERNIZING WITH SOME OF THE MOST FABULOUS FEMALES IN THE ENTIRE MARVEL UNIVERSE!

FACT IS, MAYBE YOU'D LIKE TO JOIN ME BECAUSE I WAS JUST SITTING AROUND REMINISCING ABOUT

SPIDER-MAN REVEALS:

THE 25 MOST IMPORTANT Women IN MY LIFE!



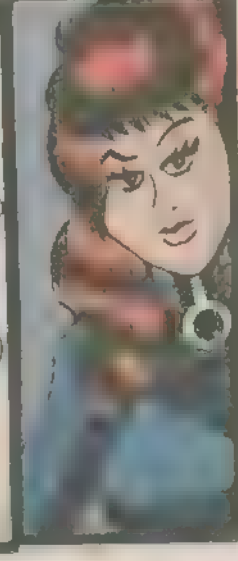
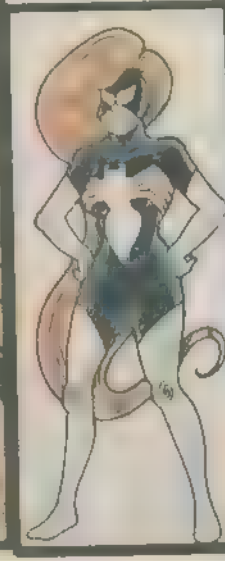
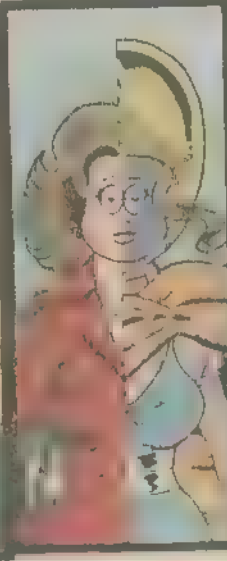
25. **CANDI, RANDI, and BAMB!** THESE THREE GIRLS LIVED IN MY OLD APARTMENT BUILDING AND THOUGH I DON'T GET TO SEE A LOT OF THEM WHEN I DO SEE THEM I GOT TO SEE A LOT OF THEM! I SEE AS SPIDER-MAN I WAS CONTINUOUSLY TRYING TO SLIP BY THIS **SUN BATHING TRIO** AS I ENTERED MY APARTMENT VIA THE BUILDING'S ROOF

24. **APRIL MAYE**, THE SECRETARY OF THE **DAILY GLOBE'S** **BARNEY BLOOM** IN APRIL AND I NEVER QUITE CONNECTED OUR NO MY BRIEF TENURE THERE YOU MIGHT SAY SHE REPRESENTS ALL THE **J.R.'S** I NEVER LOVED BEFORE WHICH REMINDS ME WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO **CISSY IRONWOOD?** **AMY POWELL?** *Sigh*

13. **MARCY KANE** A BIO-PHYSICS MAJOR AT TEMPLE STATE UNIVERSITY DURING THE SAME PERIOD I WAS MARCY SEEMED A BIT OF AN ENIGMA. SOMETIME LATER I FOUND OUT FROM HER OLD BOSS **JACK OF HEARTS** THAT SHE WAS ACTUALLY A **SUN PRIESTESS** FROM THE **WORLD OF CONTRAXIA**. I SEE NO WONDER MARCY ALWAYS TREATED PETER PARKER LIKE AN ALIEN!

21. **SPIDER-WOMAN II** SEEING HER UNIFORM DURING THE **SECRET WARS** WAS THE MOTIVATION FOR ME TO COME UP WITH MY OWN VERSION OF SAME. LITTLE DO I KNOW MINE WOULD BE **ALIVE AND NASTY!** OTHERWISE I KNOW VERY LITTLE ABOUT THIS LADY BUT I FIGURE ANYONE BRANDISHING THE SPIDER NAME IS WORTH KEEPING AN EYE ON.

21. **BLACK WIDOW** ... **NATASHA ROMANOFF** SULTRY SPY WHO'S WORKED FOR BOTH **THE RUSS** AND **SHIELD** AND THE FIRST WOMAN TO TAKE AN ARACHNID DERIVED NAME SHE DEBUTED HERE IN NOT HER FIRST NOR HER LATEST UNIFORM BUT IN THE ONE I REMEMBER BEST MAINLY BECAUSE THE DEBUT DURING A LITTLE ADVENTURE WE SHARED SOMETIME BACK



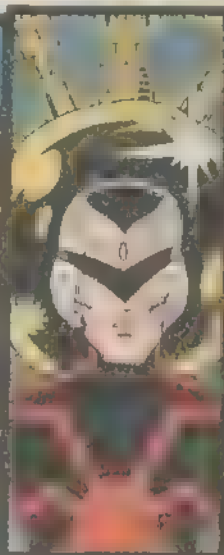
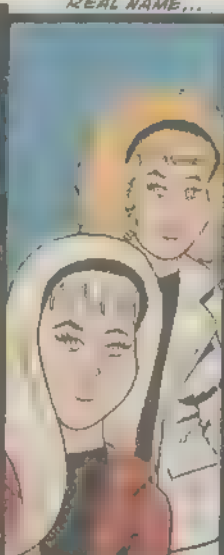
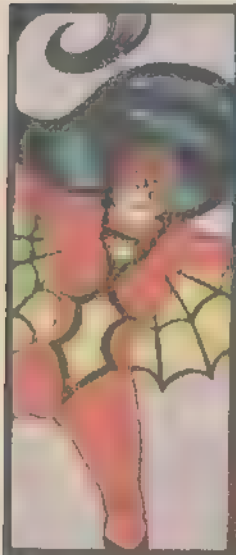
10 SPIDER WOMAN I JESSICA DREW. I HEAR TELL SHE'S RETIRED NOW WHICH IS TOO BAD BECAUSE WE HAD A COUPLE OF MEMORABLE EEN PLOTH TOGETHER AND GUSH WHO KNOWS WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF I HAD CHOSEN TO WEAR A VERSION OF HER SUIT RATHER THAN THAT OF MEN SUCCESSORS? THE MIND BOGGLES

11 GWEN STACY'S CLONE PROFESSOR MILES MARKEN AFFECTED SOME FOUR NUCLEOTIDE WITH A GENETIC VIRUS TRANSFORMED HER INTO A VEGGIE DUPLICATE OF THE WOMAN WE BOTH ONCE LOVED AND PASSED HER OFF AS A CLONE. LEARNING THE TRUTH DURING THE EVOLUTIONARY WARS HER LIFE IS ONCE AGAIN HER OWN. BUT I KNOW. I DON'T EVEN KNOW HER REAL NAME...

12 MADAME WEB A CLAIRVOYANT WHO'S HOOKED UP TO AN ELABORATE WEB LIKE LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM. I QUICKLY BECAME A BELIEVER WHEN SHE MATERIALIZED FACTS ADDRESSING SPIDER MAN AS 'PETER'. I WELCOMED HER HELP ON A NUMBER OF CASES BUT I ADMIT IT SEEMED A BIT ODD AT TIMES SHARING AN ADVENTURE WITH ONE FAUNT MAY'S CONTEMPORARIES!!

13 MARLA MADISON JAMESON MY FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH THIS BRILLIANT SCIENTIST CAME WHEN SHE SUPPLIED JONAH JAMESON WITH A BRAND NEW SPIDER SLAYER TO USE AGAINST ME. JJJ STRUCK OUT WITH THE MACHINE BUT HIT A HOME RUN WITH MARLA. SHE WON BE CAUSE THE SECOND MRS. JAMESON. I WONDER WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO THE FIRST ONE?.

14 SILVER JABLE NOW THIS IS A BOSS. SHE HEADS AN ORGANIZATION THAT APPREHENDS WANTED CRIMINALS AND RECOVERS STOLEN PROPERTY. OCCASIONALLY SHE HIRES SPECIAL OPERATIVES LIKE MYSELF TO ASSIST HER AND I'M PLEASED TO REPORT THAT SHE'S FAR MORE GENEROUS IN THE PAY DEPARTMENT THAN JJJ JAMESON EVER WAS OR EVER WILL BE!



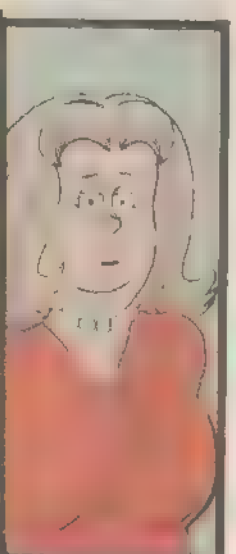
15 JOY MERCADO A WILD MANNERED REPORTER FOR A GREAT METRO POLYTAN NEWSPAPER THE DAILY BUGLE. SHE NONE THELESS IS THE CONSUMMATE WORKSHY WOMAN WHEN SHE'S ON THE JOB. HER COLLEAGUE THE LATE PETER PARKER A GREAT BOLD AND JOYFULISTIC COMMITMENT

16 JEAN D'WOLFE THE LATE CAPTAIN OF MIDTOWN MANHATTAN WAS A TOUGH LADY A GOOD LADY AND A RARE ALLY INSIDE THE POLICE DEPARTMENT. I WAS BARELY SHAKEN BY HER SEAMLESS DEATH AT THE HANDS OF STAN CARTER THE SO CALLED SINFATER BECAUSE NOT ONLY IT WAS A GOOD FRIEND BUT THE LATE WAS A GREAT COP

17 SHA SHAN THE LONG TIME GIRLFRIEND AND NOW EX GIRLFRIEND OF FLASH THORP IN HER VIETNAMESE PAST APPARENTLY STILL BALKS HER MITH LOUNTRY FUSION. I STAKENLY GOT THE IDEA THAT THERE WAS SOMETHING BETWEEN HER AND PETER BUT ALL THERE REALLY WAS WAS CONCERN FOR A FRIEND IN NEED

18 GLORY GRANT A ONE TIME NEIGHBOR IN MY OLD APARTMENT BUILDING GLORY HAS THE THANKLESS JOB OF BEING JONAH JAMESON'S MAIN FRIDAY DOWN THE BUGLE. SASSY HIP AND BRIGHT AS GRANT'S TASTE IN MEN SEEMS TO RUN MORE ALONG THE LINE OF WOLVES RATHER THAN SPIDERS

19 ANNA WATSON I'VE KNOWN THIS DEAR SWEET WOMAN MOST OF MY LIFE. FIRST AS THE BEST FRIEND MY AUNT HAD EVER HAD AND MORE RECENTLY AS THE LATEST THING TO A MOTHER-IN-LAW. MY MARRIAGE TO HER Niece MARY JANE WHO PROVIDE AND BELIEVE ME I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER TO HEAR NO AUNT IN LAW JOKES FROM ME!



10. KRISTY WATSON, HAVING MOVED IN WITH US IN AN ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW IN MARY JANE'S FOOTSTEPS, M.T.S. TEENAGE NIECE FROM INDIANA SEEMS TO HAVE HER EYE NOT ONLY ON THE MODELING BUSINESS, BUT ALSO ON, ER, YOU'RE TRULY I SUPPOSE IT'S JUST A PHASE SHE'S GOING THROUGH. BUT WHY ON WHY COULDN'T SHE JUST HAVE HAD A CRUSH ON JON BON JOVI LIKE THE REST OF THE GIRLS HER AGE??...

9. DEBRA WHITMAN, BACK IN THE E.S.L. DAYS I CITED THIS FELLOW GRAD STUDENT RATHER HEAVILY HAVING ALL THE INSECURITIES AND SELF DOUBTS OF A YOUNGER PETER PARKER--NOT TO MENTION THE GLASSES--HER LOVE FOR ME TURNED TO OBSESSION AND SHE WAS SOON GIVEN TO "DELUSIONS" I WAS SPIDER-MAN 'SHOOKING HER BACK TO 'REALITY' WITH A "CONFESSION" WE PARTED FRIENDS AS SHE RETURNED TO THE MOWSET, DETERMINED TO PUT HER LIFE BACK TOGETHER

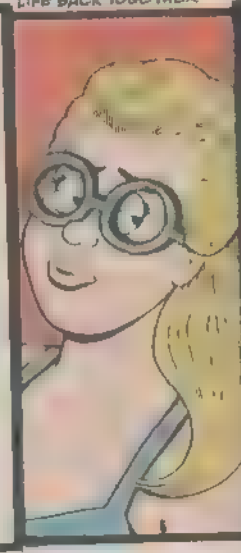
8. KATE CLISHAM, THE DAILY BUGLE'S NEWEST CITY EDITOR IS A FAIR BUT TOUGH BOSS! HER REFUSAL TO PURCHASE ANY SHOOTING PHOTOS FROM PARKER HAS FORCED ME TO IMPROVE MY CRAFT. NOW, WHEN I GO INTO BATTLE WITH DOCK, ELECTRO OR WHOMEVER, ONE OF MY VERY FIRST THOUGHTS ALWAYS IS, "I HOPE KATE LIKES THE ANGLE I'VE CHOSEN" WHEN SETTING UP MY AUTOMATIC CAMERA--REALLY!

7. LIZ ALLAN OSBORN, WHEN WE WERE JUST KIDS GOING TO SCHOOL TOGETHER I HAD SUCH A CRUSH ON LIZ, BUT SHE ONLY HAD EYES FOR FOOTBALL STAR FLASH THOMPSON. FUNNY THING THOUGH YEARS LATER SHE WOUND UP MARRYING MY OLD COLLEGE ROOMMATE HARRY OSBORN. HARDLY A SPORTS IDOL. HAPPILY WED WITH A CHILD NAMED NORMAN, WE ALL REMAIN GOOD SOLID FRIENDS

6. THE BLACK CAT AND FELICIA HARDY, THE ONLY WOMAN ON THIS LIST TO BE ROMANTICALLY INVOLVED WITH SPIDER-MAN LONG BEFORE EVEN REALIZING THE EXISTENCE OF PETER PARKER. FELICIA WAS A THRILL-SEEKING BURG-LAR TURNED THILL-SEEKING CRIME FIGHTER BREAKING UP SHORTLY BEFORE MY NUPALS WITH M.J. IF THE BLACK CAT SHOULD ONCE AGAIN CROSS MY PATH WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT "BAD LUCK!"



5. BETTY BRANT LEEDS SHORTLY AFTER GAINING MY POWERS, I FELL HARD FOR JJJ'S THEN SECRETARY--EVEN WITH THAT HAIRDO! THE FIRST TRUE LOVE OF MY LIFE DIDN'T LAST LONG, HOWEVER, AS THE SPECTRE OF SPIDER-MAN ALWAYS SEEMED TO STAND BETWEEN US. NONETHELESS, WE'VE MANAGED TO MAINTAIN OUR FRIENDSHIP DURING HER MARRIAGE TO THE LATE NED LEEDS UP THROUGH HER BLOSSOMING RELATIONSHIP WITH FLASH THOMPSON



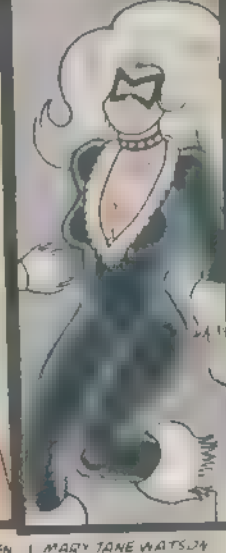
4. GWEN STACY WHEN WE FIRST MET AS FRESHMEN AT COLLEGE I'D NEVER GUESSED THAT THIS WAS THE WOMAN I'D SHARE MY FIRST DEEP LONG-LASTING MATURE RELATIONSHIP WITH-- BUT SHE WAS. HER TRAGIC DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE GREEN GOBLIN LEFT ME EMOTIONALLY DEVASTATED FOR A LONG, LONG TIME. I GUESS THERE'LL BE A PART OF ME THAT'LL ALWAYS MISS HER



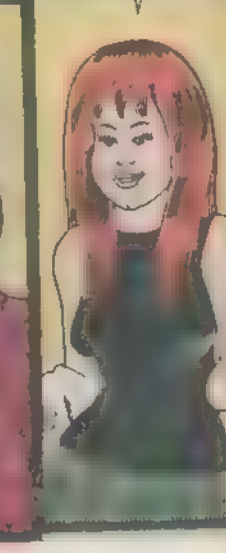
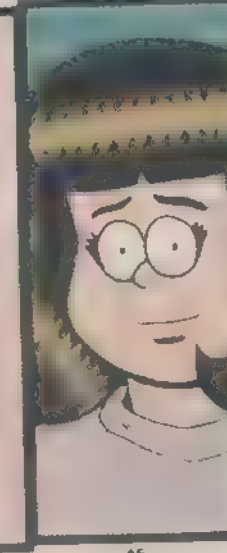
3. MARY PARKER MOM WAS A SECRET AGENT SO WAS DAD. SOMETIMES SECRET AGENTS GET KILLER. MINE DID, BACK WHEN I WAS JUST AN INFANT. SO YOU SEE, I NEVER REALLY KNEW MY MOM. BUT WHETHER YOU KNOW HER ALL YOUR LIFE OR NOT AT ALL, YOUR MOM'S STILL A VERY IMPORTANT WOMAN IN ANYBODY'S LIFE. MINE WAS



2. AUNT MAY PARKER WHEN MY DAD LEFT ME IN THE CARE OF HIS BROTHER BEN AND WIFE MAY I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN BLESSED WITH BETTER PEOPLE TO RAISE ME ON HER OWN SINCE MY UNCLE'S DEATH, AUNT MAY NEVER FAILS TO INSPIRE ME WITH HER RESILIANCY, HER STRENGTH, HER WISDOM AND HER TENDERNESS. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY I ADORE MY AUNT MAY WELL, WHO WOULDN'T?



1. MARY JANE WATSON PARKER WHO ELSE COULD BE THE MOST IMPORTANT WOMAN IN MY LIFE? BUT MY WIFE ANNA WATSON'S NICE-- WE'VE HAD OUR UPS AND DOWNS OVER THE YEARS AND... REALLY I RESISTED THE MATCH MAKING ATTEMPTS OF MY AUNT MAY AND HER FRIENDS. BUT LET ME TELL YOU I THINK THE WORDS M.J. SPUN WHEN I FIRST LAID EYES ON HER STILL APPLY. FACE IT, TIGER, YOU JUST HIT THE JACKPOT!



STORY BY
FRODO BAGGINS

THE FIRST
PAGE OF
THE BOOK

Sweet REVENGE



JOHN
C. COY
SCOTT

DAN
JULIENS
PENCIL

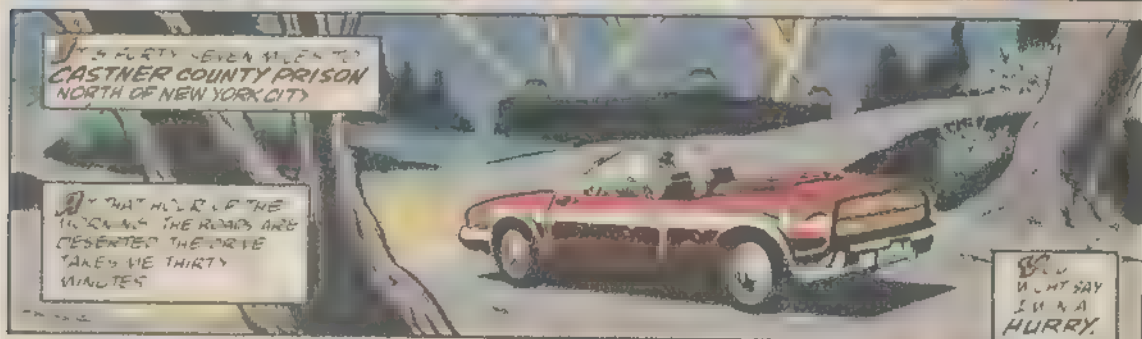
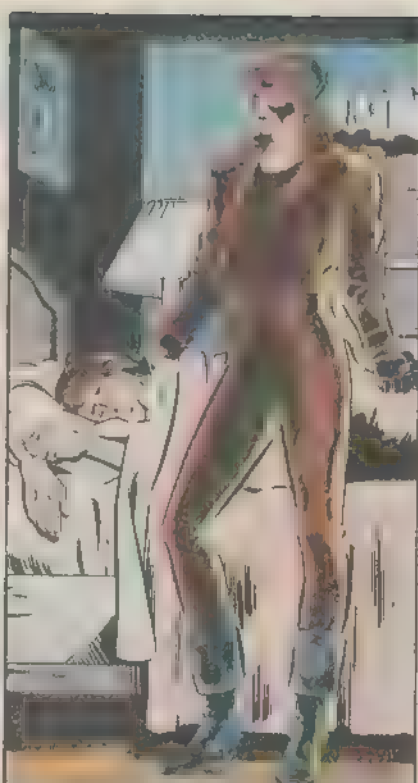
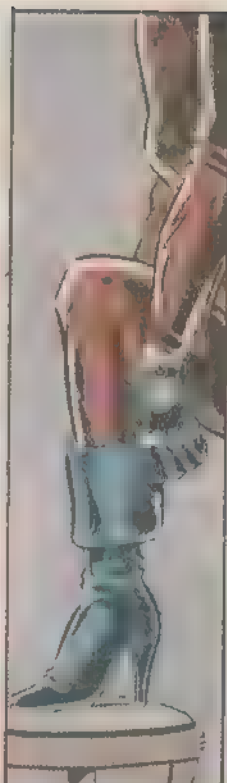
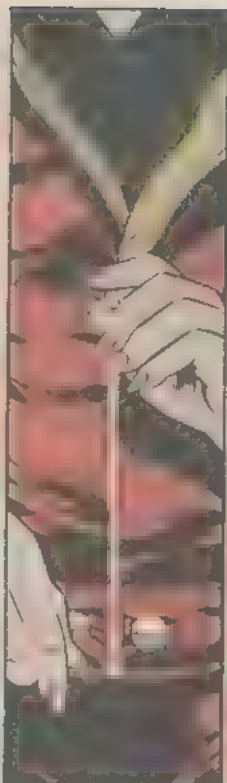
MARY
MCAENNA
INKS

DICK
DARVER
LETTERS

T
FINE
COLOR

JIM
SALICRUP
EDITOR

TOM
DI FALCO
EDITOR IN CHIEF





YEAH BUT UH
WHAT ARE YOU
UH, DOING
HERE?

THIS IS UH,
WELL UH IT'S
A PRISON.

I KNOW.



BUT DON'T WORRY
BE HAPPY NOBODY'S
BREAKING OUT

OWWWW!
MY EYES...



I'M BREAKING
IN

THANK



A CAN OF MACE AND A
GOOD RIGHT CROSS



ALWAYS ASK MY WOMAN'S
URBAN DEFENSE CLASS
WOULD COME IN HANDY SURE



HAMMM
WHAZZIT?

RISE AN SHINE,
JONATHAN,
YOU SLEAZE-
BUCKET.



MARY JANE WATSON

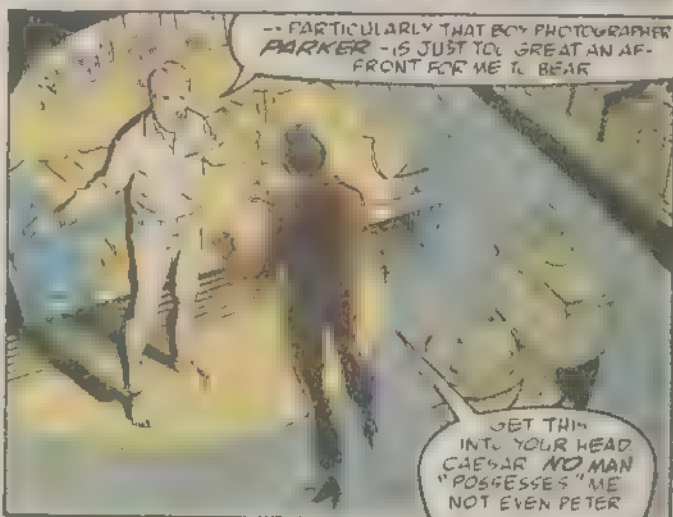
CORRECTION--
MARY JANE
WATSON-PARKER

I'M A MARRIED
WOMAN,
REMEMBER?

HOW COULD I
FORGET?

THAT'S ONE OF
THE REASONS
I **HATE** YOU
MARY JANE
EVEN WHILE I
WORTH P YOU

THE THOUGHT OF
ANOTHER MAN
POSSESSING
YOU--



-- PARTICULARLY THAT BOY PHOTOGRAPHER
PARKER -- IS JUST TOO GREAT AN AF-
FRONT FOR ME TO BEAR

GET THIS
INTO YOUR HEAD
CAESAR NO MAN
"POSSESSES" ME
NOT EVEN PETER



PITY

KEEP YOUR
HANDS OFF
ME.

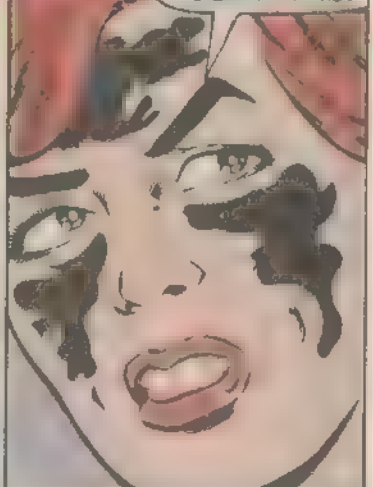
WHATEVER
YOU WANT,
MY DEAR.

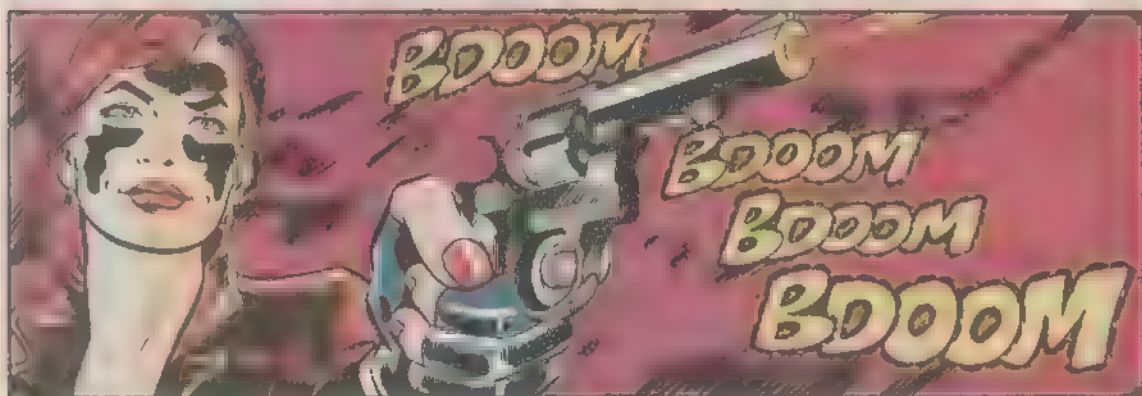
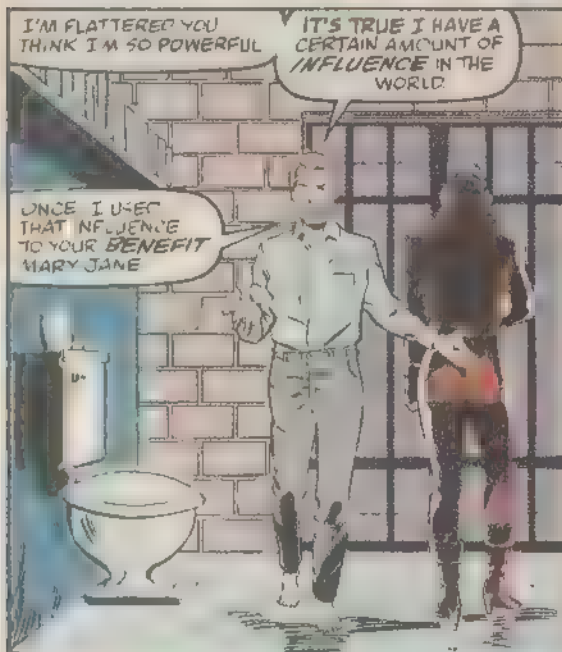


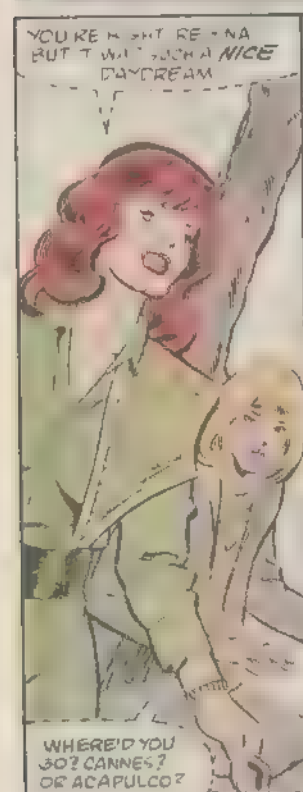
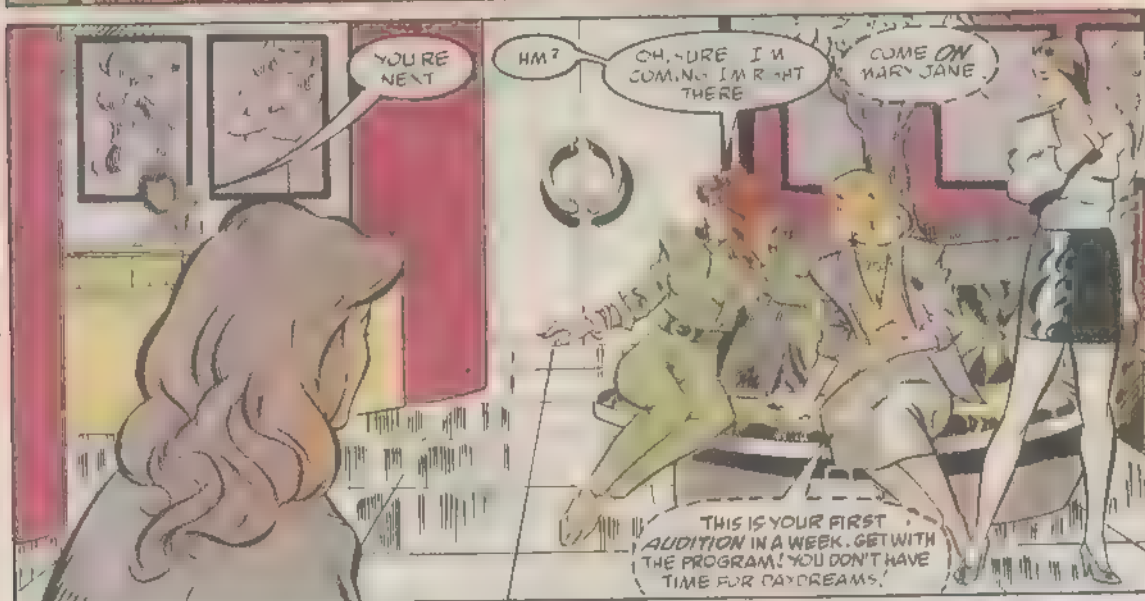
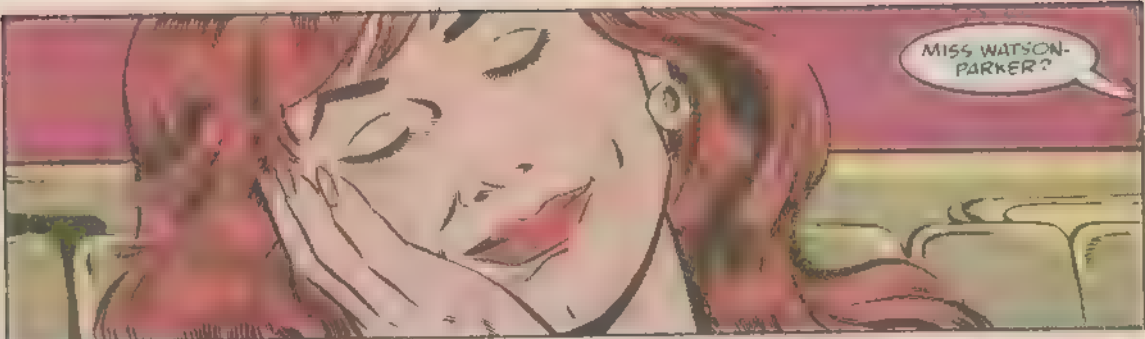
I WANT MY
LIFE BACK
YOU CREEP

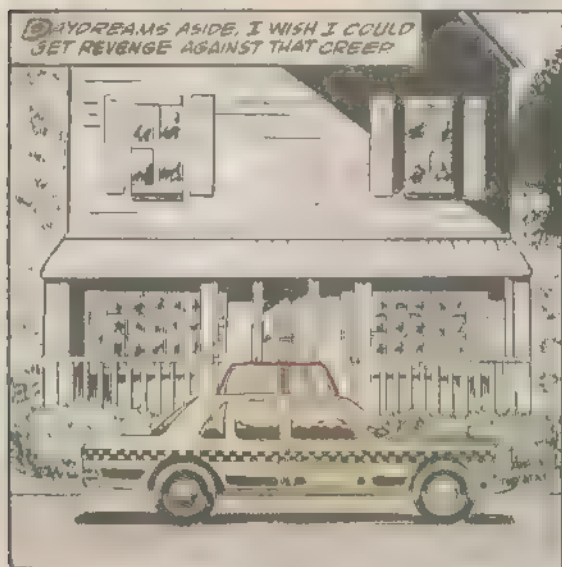
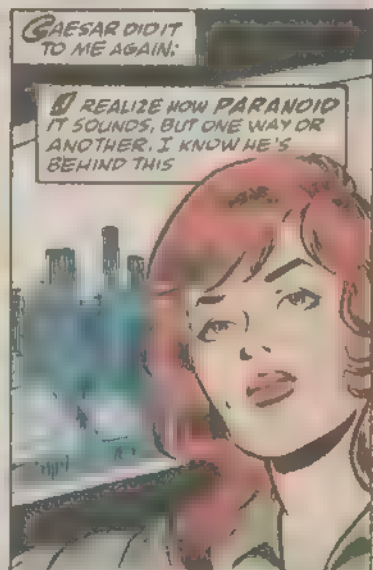
YOU KIDNAPED ME
HELP ME PRISONER
TRIED TO MAKE ME
YOUR SLAVE

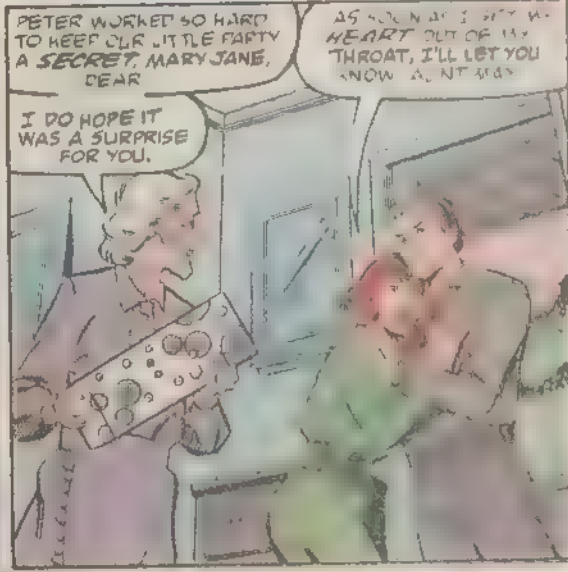
-- AND WHEN THAT
LANDED YOU IN JAIL,
YOU DECIDED TO
DESTROY ME!

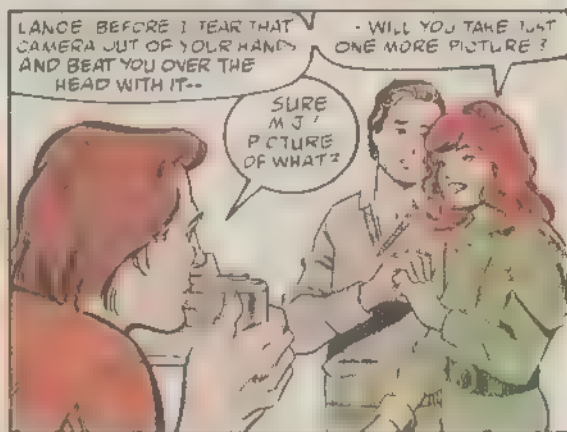
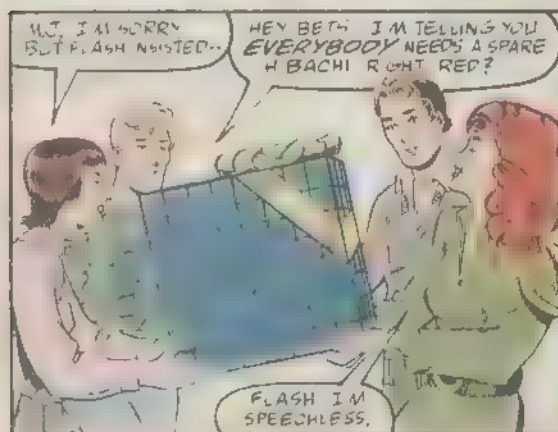
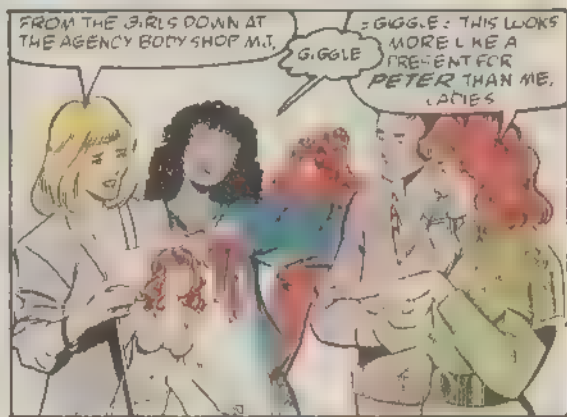
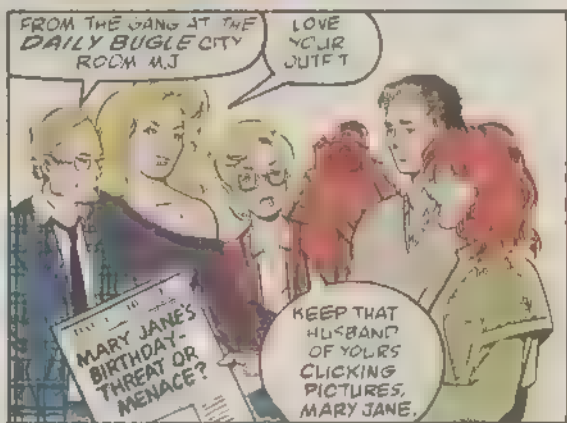
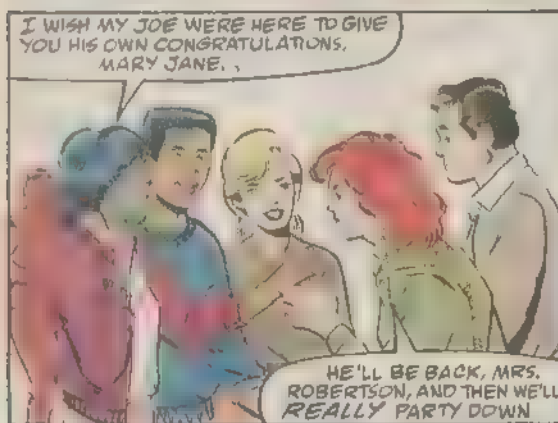
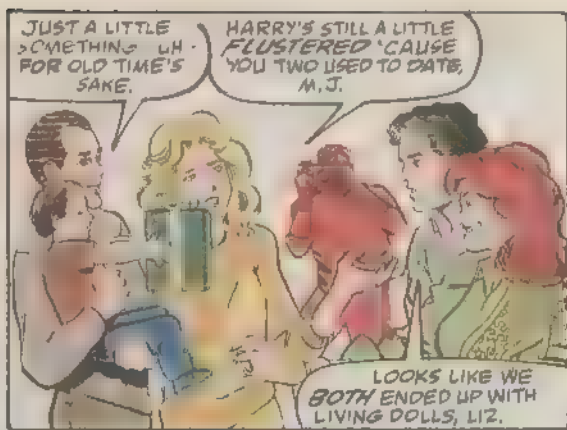
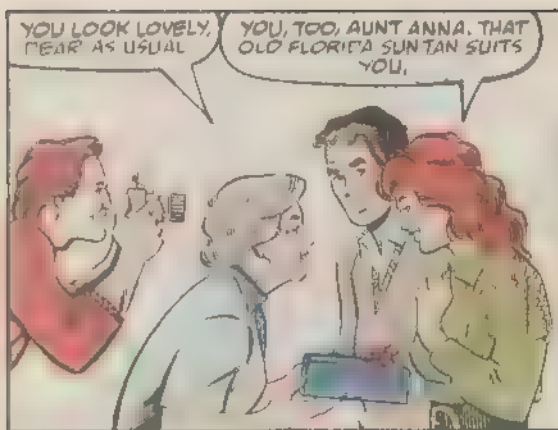


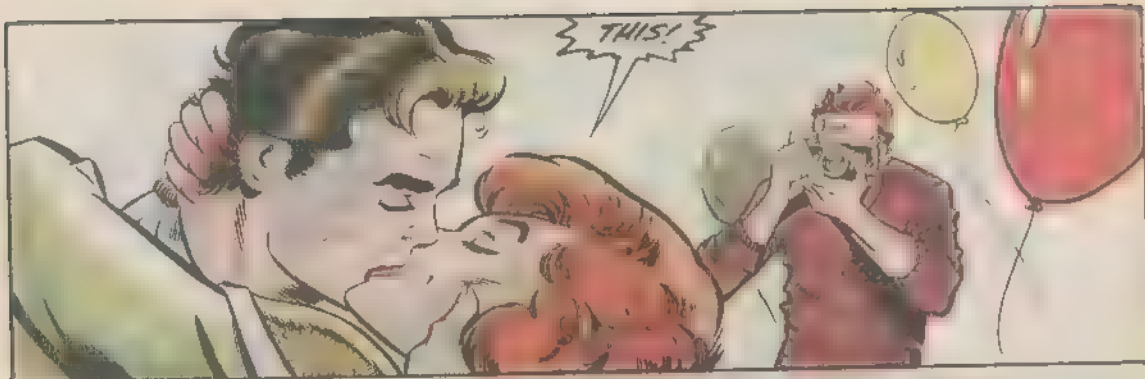












I'D FINALLY FIGURED A WAY
TO GET THE PERFECT
REVENGE ON JONATHAN
CAESAR



AND TWO DAYS LATER BY MAIL
I PUT MY DIABOLICAL PLAN INTO
ACTION.



I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT!
TAKE IT AWAY! TAKE IT
AWAY TAKE IT AWAY!

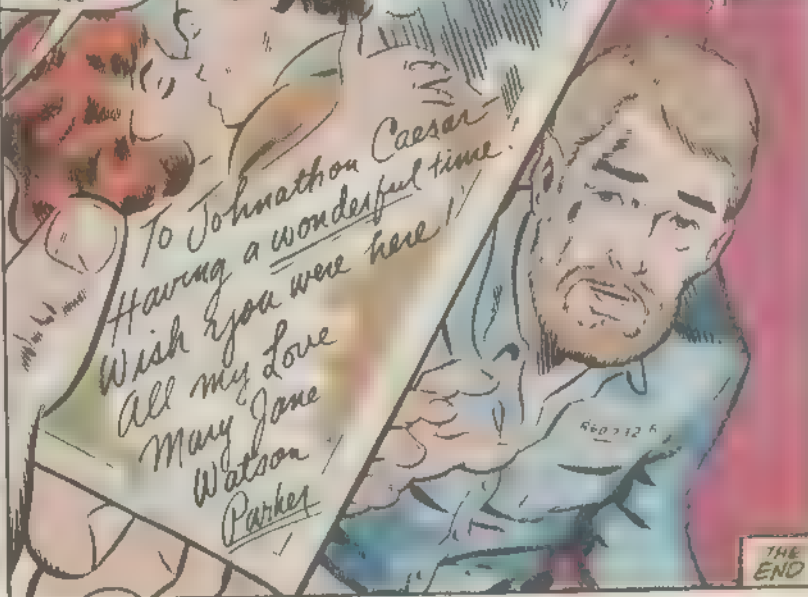
- SHEESH!
WHAT BLEW
HIS FUSE?



I DON'T GET IT WHY
WOULD HE FREAK OVER
A PICTURE?



YEAH. AND THE
SENTIMENT'S
KINDA SWEET
TOO



THE
END

I AM THE WATCHER, AND I BORE WITNESS TO THE SINKING OF ATLANTIS AND LEMURIA AT THE TIME OF THE GREAT CATAclysm.

LONG AFTERWARDS, THOSE TWO CONTINENTS WERE SETTLED BY A NEW RACE OF WATER-BREATHING HUMANOIDS THE NEW ATLANTEANS WORSHIPPED NEPTUNE, THE OLYMPIAN GOD OF THE SEA.

NEPTUNE WAS A STERN GOD, INTOLERANT OF DISSENT FROM HIS RULE.

AND ON THIS DAY, ROUGHLY TWO MILLENNIA AGO, OSSEM, PATRIARCH OF THE ATLANTEANS, WENT TO TELL NEPTUNE OF THE EMERGENCE OF THE CULT OF A RIVAL DEITY--

A GOD BEARING THE DREAD NAME OF SET.

CHAPTER 5

GOLDEN SERPENT

INSPIRED BY A STORY BY JOHN BYRNE

PEE ER SANDERSON	MARK BAGLEY	BOB LEWIS	JAKE MOORE	MARC SIRY	GREGORY WRIGHT	MARK GRUENWALD	TOM DEALCO
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GOLDEN SERPENT

PIER	MARK	BOB	JADE	MARC	GREGORY	MARK	TOM
SANDPSON	BAGLEY	LEWIS	MOORE	SIRY	WRIGHT	GREENWALD	DEBALCO
WRITER	PLAYSER	INNER	LETTERER	COLORIST	MANAGING EDITOR	EDITOR	EDITOR IN CHIEF

GOOD OSSEM, WHAT IS IT THAT SO TROUBLES MY MOST LOYAL SERVANT?

GREAT NEPTUNE, WITH YOUR BLESSING WE HAVE DRIVEN THE BARBARIANS OF SKAR-KA FROM OUR HOMELAND.

BUT MANY OF OUR YOUTH PERISHED IN THE WAR, AND THE SURVIVORS CRY OUT TO PURSUE THE BARBARIANS AND WREAK A BLOODY REVENGE.

IT MATTERS NOT! WE HAVE A NEW GOD NOW, ONE WHO WILL LEAD US IN SLAUGHTERING EVERY LAST ONE OF THE BARBARIANS!

YOU CANNOT STAND AGAINST US -- OR GREAT SET!

BEWARE, BALAAAL, A GOD WHO DEMANDS THE BLOOD OF OTHERS MAY ONE DAY DEMAND YOURS AS WELL.

LOOK TO YOUR OWN, OLD MAN, YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED.

TRUE GODS DO NOT PERFORM MAGIC TRICKS TO IMPRESS THE WEAK OF FAITH!

I HAVE LONG WATCHED OVER THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS. I OWE THEM NOTHING! BUT THEY OWE ME MUCH!

AND SHOULD THEY TURN AGAINST ME, LET THEM FEAR MY WRATH!

GO NOW! THE AUDIENCE IS OVER!

"AND IT SHAMES ME TO SAY THAT MY OWN SON, BALAAAL, IS THE LEADER OF THE WARMONGERS."

THE ENEMY BUTCHERED YOUR ELDEST SONS -- MY BROTHERS! YOU CALL YOURSELF OUR FATHER BUT YET YOU DO NOTHING!

VENGEANCE WILL GAIN US NOTHING, MY SON. NEITHER LORD NEPTUNE NOR I SEES ANY REASON WHY MORE ATLANTIAN BLOOD MUST BE SPILLED.

AND I SEE MY OWN FATHER HAS TURNED FOOL AND COWARD IN HIS OLD AGE. NEPTUNE -- IF HE EVEN EXISTS -- CARES NOTHING FOR US!

I KNOW NOT WHO THIS SET MAY BE, MY LORD, BUT I FEAR THAT HIS WORSHIP MAY HAVE ALREADY SECRETLY SPREAD THROUGH MUCH OF THE POPULACE.

PERHAPS, O NEPTUNE, IF YOU COULD GIVE THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS A SIGN THAT YOU STILL CARE ABOUT THEM, THEY WOULD TURN ASIDE FROM THIS NEW GOD AND HIS PLANS FOR WAR.

DO NOT PRESUME TOO MUCH OSSEM.

HEAVY OF HEART, OSSEM RETURNED TO THE CITY OF ATLANTIS ONLY TO FIND...

THERE HE IS! SEIZE HIM!

WHAT IS THIS? I AM OSSEM, YOUR RULER!

YOU WERE RULER, BLASPHEMER! BUT NOT ANYMORE!

AND UPON THEIR ARMOR OSSEM SAW THE GOLDEN IMAGE OF A SEVEN HEADED SERPENT!

OSSEM WAS SHOWN AND DRAGGED BY THE GUARDS INTO A NIGHTMARE BECOME REALITY.

THERE, UPON AN ALTAR OUTSIDE THE CITY STOOD AN ENORMOUS, SINISTER IMAGE OF THE SEVEN-HEADED SERPENT, MADE ENTIRELY OF GOLD!

STANDING BEFORE IT WAS BALAAL, AND AROUND THE ALTAR WAS HALF THE POPULATION OF ATLANTIS, RITUALLY CHANTING ONE WORD -- SET!

AND OSSEM KNEW INSTINCTIVELY THAT THAT WORD WAS THE NAME OF THE SEVEN-HEADED SERPENT, AND THAT SOMEHOW, THE GOD HIMSELF WAS WITHIN THE EERILY GLOWING SPHERE BEFORE HIM--!

WELCOME, FATHER, TO THE DEATH OF THE OLD OLDER AND THE BIRTH OF THE NEW--

--TO THE REBIRTH OF THE MIGHTY SET UPON THIS WORLD--

-- THROUGH THE DEATH OF HIS GREATEST ENEMY!

THIS IDOL IS THE GOLDEN SERPENT, CREATED SECRETLY BY MEMBERS OF OUR CULT TO ABSORB AND MAGNIFY OUR PSYCHIC ENERGY--

--ENOUGH SO THAT AT LONG LAST WE CAN BRING THE ALL-POWERFUL SET FROM HIS OWN WORLD TO EARTH!

PART OF HIS LIFE FORCE ALREADY FILLS THIS SPHERE--

BUT TO ENABLE HIM TO EMERGE FROM IT ONTO THE EARTH, WE NEED TO SACRIFICE A LIFE--

AND HE HAS DEMAND THAT IT BE YOURS.

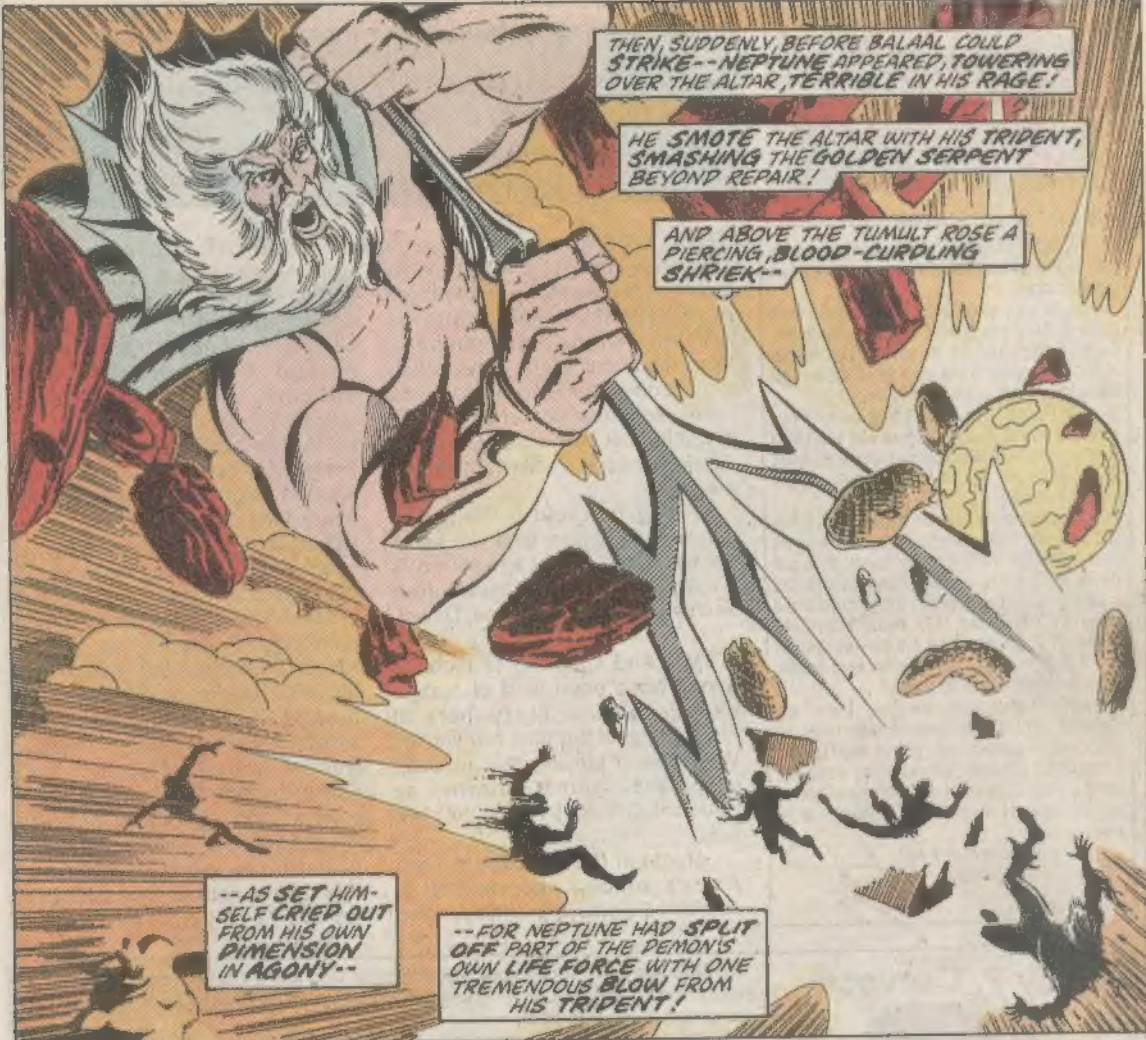
TO MURDER YOUR OWN FATHER! LORD NEPTUNE WILL MAKE YOU PAY FOR THIS CRIME!

NOT AS WELL AS SET WILL PAY ME!

FOR WITH ONE STROKE OF THIS DAGGER, I BECOME RULER OF ATLANTIS!

FAREWELL, OLD MAN! FROM THIS DAY ON MY ONLY FATHER IS SET!

AND EVEN AS HE RAISED THE DAGGER, THE SERPENT DEMON COULD BE SEEN THROUGH THE SPHERE WRITHING IN HIS OWN DIMENSION, EAGER TO TASTE OSSEM'S BLOOD!



THEN, SUDDENLY, BEFORE BALAAL COULD STRIKE-- NEPTUNE APPEARED, TOWERING OVER THE ALTAR, TERRIBLE IN HIS RAGE!

HE SMOTE THE ALTAR WITH HIS TRIDENT, SMASHING THE GOLDEN SERPENT BEYOND REPAIR!

AND ABOVE THE TUMULT ROSE A PIERCING, BLOOD-CURLING SHRIEK--

--AS SET HIMSELF CRIED OUT FROM HIS OWN DIMENSION IN AGONY--

--FOR NEPTUNE HAD SPLIT OFF PART OF THE DEMON'S OWN LIFE FORCE WITH ONE TREMENDOUS BLOW FROM HIS TRIDENT!

NEPTUNE HAD SPARED OSSEM, WHO WAS ENTIRELY UNHURT.

BUT BALAAL AND THE OTHER WORSHIPPERS OF SET HAD ALL SUFFERED HORRIBLE DEATHS--

--AND THE REST OF THE PEOPLE OF ATLANTIS FLED IN FEAR OF NEPTUNE'S ANGER!

OSSEM SAW THE SPHERE SHRINK AND CHANGE COLOR NOW THAT THE LIFE FORCE WITHIN IT HAD BEEN SEVERED FROM ITS DEMONIC OWNER.

THE SEA GOD WOULD ERECT A HUGE DOME ABOUT THE SPHERE, AND SET AN IMMENSE MONSTER TO GUARD IT.

AND ALANTEANS WOULD THEREAFTER SHUN THE PLACE, CALLING IT THE ALTAR OF NEPTUNE'S WRATH!

AND SOON OSSEM BEGAN HIS LONG SEARCH THROUGH THE SEAS FOR HIS SCATTERED PEOPLE, HOPING TO REUNITE THEM AS A NATION--

--AND SLOWLY, OVER MANY DECADES OF HIS LONG LIFE, HE SUCCEEDED. HE LIVED TO SEE THE ATLANTEANS BEGIN TO REBUILD THEIR CITY--



--BUT HE WOULD NOT ENTER IT HIMSELF.

EXHAUSTED BY HIS YEARS OF HARDSHIP, THE ELDERLY OSSEM LAY ON HIS DEATHBED, SURROUNDED BY HIS GRIEVING CHILDREN.

YET HE WOULD NOT ALLOW HIMSELF TO DIE.



HE FELT HE COULD NOT ABANDON HIS PEOPLE.

MIGHTY NEPTUNE, I IMPLORE YOU...

...SHOW MY PEOPLE MERCY... I CAN HELP THEM NO MORE...

...DO NOT LEAVE THEM WITHOUT GUIDANCE IN THEIR TIME OF NEED...



I AM HERE, GOOD OSSEM. YOUR DEDICATION TO YOUR PEOPLE HAS MOVED ME.

I SHALL DWELL AMONG YOUR PEOPLE AS ONE OF THEM, CARING FOR THEM IN YOUR STEAD.

GO NOW IN PEACE. A PLACE OF BLISS AWAITS YOU IN THE NEXT WORLD.



OSSEM SMILED IN CONTENTMENT AT HIS GOD AND THEN CLOSED HIS EYES FOR THE FINAL TIME.

AND NEPTUNE LIVED AMONG THE ATLANTEAN PEOPLE FOR MANY YEARS, SHOWING THEM KINDNESS RATHER THAN ANGER.

IT WAS THE GOLDEN AGE OF ATLANTEAN HISTORY.



AND EVER SINCE THEN, THE ATLANTEANS HAVE CALLED THEIR GOD FATHER NEPTUNE.

WHILE IN HIS NETHER DIMENSION, THE WOUNDED SET LUSTED FOR VENGEANCE.

SOMEDAY, HE VOWED, HE WOULD DESTROY THE ATLANTEANS FOR THE INJURY HE HAD SUFFERED.

BOTH THE COBRA CROWN AND THE GOLDEN SERPENT HAD BEEN DESTROYED--

AND SO, SET DECIDED, HE MUST FIND A NEW FAUN TO WEAR THE FIRST RECEPTACLE OF HIS POWER, THE LONG LOST SERPENT CROWN!





NEARLY SIX HUNDRED YEARS AGO, A FRIGHTENED LEMURIAN FINDS HIMSELF AT A PLACE LONG SHUNNED BY HIS PEOPLE--

--WHERE THE REMAINS OF TWO MEN, SOMEHOW PRESERVED FOR AGES, SEEM TO CONTEND FOR THE SERPENT CROWN EVEN IN DEATH!



THEIR HANDS WILL NOT RELINQUISH THEIR GRASP--

--EVEN WHEN THE LIVING MAN TAKES THE CROWN--



--BUT BEFORE THE SLAVE CAN HAND THE CROWN TO HIS WATCHING MASTER--

--HIS HEART SUDDENLY STOPS, AND HE COLLAPSES AS LIFELESS AS THE SKELETONS!



HE'S DEAD! THE LEGENDS WERE TRUE! THE GODS HAVE CURSED THIS PLACE!

OF COURSE IT IS A SIGN, DOLTS!

YOUR HIGHNESS, THIS IS A SIGN! WE ARE NOT MEANT TO TOUCH THE CROWN!

A SIGN THAT NO UNWORTHY MAN MAY LAY HANDS ON THE SACRED CROWN OF ALMIGHTY SET!

THEN THE MONARCH HIMSELF PICKED UP THE CROWN--



AND THE HANDS FELL AWAY, AS IF ACKNOWLEDGING THEIR MASTER--

--AND WHO IS MORE WORTHY THAN I, WHOSE FATHER SET HAS MARKED WITH HIS OWN FEATURES?



WITH THIS CROWN, I, NAGA, EMPEROR OF LEMURIA--

--BECOME LIKE UNTO A GOD MYSELF!

AND THEN NAGA BEGAN A REIGN OF TERROR MATCHED BY FEW OTHER DEPOTS IN ALL OF EARTH'S HISTORY!

CONTINUED IN PAREDEVIL ANNUAL #4